



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: County Executive Office &
County Health Department
Department No.: 012, 041
Agenda Date: May 20, 2025
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: 45 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Directors: Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Mouhanad Hammami, Director
County Health Department

Contact Info: Tanja Heitman, Assistant CEO

SUBJECT: Response to 2024-25 Grand Jury Report on Epidemic Response

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Signed by:

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- Consider and adopt the responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2024-25 Grand Jury report entitled "Is the Santa Barbara Public Health Department Prepared for the Next Epidemic?";
- Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A, and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara Superior Court; and
- Determine pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that do not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On March 10, 2024, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury issued a report entitled "Is the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Prepared for the Next Epidemic?" Today, the Board will consider the proposed responses to the report, adopt their preferred responses, and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letters. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days of the report issuance.

Background:

In the report entitled “Is the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Prepared for the Next Epidemic?” (Attachment B), the Grand Jury found that the County Public Health Department has adopted a largely reactive approach to future epidemic threats and that limitations exist in monitoring for signs of any emerging threats, as well as developing advanced plans to address them.

The Board of Supervisors is named a responder to Findings 1 through 6, and Recommendations 1 through 6 (including Recommendation 6a and 6b). Refer to Attachment A for the County’s responses.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board’s action on this matter.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Board of Supervisors Response – “Is the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department Prepared for the Next Epidemic?”

Attachment B – 2024-25 Grand Jury Report on Epidemic Response

Attachment C – Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan

Authored by:

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