

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 3/24/05  
**Department Name:** Public Health  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** 4/5/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** N/A  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Elliot Schulman, Director / Health Officer  
Public Health Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** David Brummond, 346-7348  
Environmental Health Services

**SUBJECT:** BEACH ACT Revenue Agreement between Environmental Health Services and the California Department of Health Services for FY 2004-2005

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Approve and execute the revenue agreement between Environmental Health and the California Department of Health Services to implement the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act for the period of October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005, for the amount of \$25,000.
- B. Authorize the Public Health Director to approve and execute any contract amendments not to exceed 10% of total contract amount.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2: A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit, and Goal No. 5: Quality of Life – A High Quality of Life for All Residents.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

The Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act was signed into law in October 2000. This legislation amended the Clean Water Act to reduce the risk of disease to users of the nation's recreational waters and established a national program for monitoring beach water quality and notifying the public of unsafe conditions.

The BEACH ACT authorized the United States Environmental Protection Agency to award program development and implementation grants to state and local governments to support microbiological testing

and monitoring of coastal recreational water. Current State regulations require that coastal jurisdictions sample the water adjacent to public beaches at least once per week between April 1 and October 31. In implementing these current state regulations, Santa Barbara County also meets the monitoring and reporting guidelines specified in the federal BEACH ACT.

Environmental Health Services collects samples to monitor ocean water quality throughout the year. However, the County receives reimbursement from the State only for costs incurred during the April – October time frame when the state regulations are in effect. Money received through the BEACH ACT agreement will be used to pay for that portion of the existing year-round monitoring program that is not reimbursed by the state. For the subject agreement, this covers the time period of November 1, 2004 through March 30, 2005. Due to a State audit of all contracts, Santa Barbara County did not receive the agreement for processing until mid-January.

The Public Health Department and the California Department of Health Services seek to renew an agreement, whereby the Department of Health Services will reimburse the County, up to the limits of the contract, for the cost of monitoring water quality at public beaches and for disseminating this information to the public. As noted above, these funds would be used to offset county costs incurred for these activities between November and March.

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

The service levels required by California law are codified in sections 115889, 115885 and 115916 of the California Health and Safety Code. The regulations adopted pursuant to the statute, are found in Title 17, California Code of Regulations, sections 7956-7962, inclusive. These regulations stipulate that the County is responsible for monitoring the water quality at all public beaches within our jurisdiction at least once per week from April 1 to October 31, inclusive. Other duties include:

- \* Posting warning signs whenever testing reveals that the water quality does not meet bacteriological standards.
- \* Closing a beach in the event that a sewage spill contaminates the water adjacent to a public beach.
- \* Maintaining a telephone hotline to inform the public of any postings, closures or use restrictions at any beach.

The monitoring frequency and the reporting procedures currently used by the County, would also meet the guidelines contained in the BEACH ACT. Therefore, no increase in service levels would be required as a result of entering into this agreement.

Entering into this agreement would result in a minor increase in workload for both Environmental Health Services staff and Public Health Laboratory staff. The BEACH ACT contract requires that formalized Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) measures be developed and implemented. These QA/QC measures would require the collection and analysis of an extra two to four samples per week as well as the preparation of Chain of Custody documentation.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There would be no impact to the General Fund nor to the Public Health Department Special Revenue Fund with the execution of this agreement. This \$25,000 grant will cover existing costs of \$9,200 for labor, \$13,500 for Laboratory services, and \$2,300 of indirect costs. These costs are included as part of the Adopted Fiscal Year 2004-2005 Public Health Department budget in the Environmental Health cost center and can be found on page D-192 of the County's Operating Plan document.

No additional facilities would be needed as a result of entering into this agreement.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return six (6) fully executed cover sheets and original Agreement along with a copy of the minute order to the Public Health Department Contracts Unit, 300 N San Antonio Rd. Bldg 8, Santa Barbara, CA 93110 Attn: Margaret Granger, Contracts Unit Coordinator (681-5367).

**Concurrence:**

Not Applicable.