



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

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

**Submitted on:**  
**(COB Stamp)**

**Department Name:** County Health Department  
**Department No.:** 041  
**Agenda Date:** April 21, 2026  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

---

**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director: Mouhanad Hammami, County Health  
Contact: Jason Johnston, Environmental Health Services Director  
**SUBJECT: Ocean Water Quality Monitoring Grant Agreement (State Water Board)**

---

**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt a Resolution (Attachment A) to:
  - i) Approve, ratify, and authorize the County Health Director, or designee, to execute the Public Beach Safety Grant Agreement (No. D2514113) (substantially in the form attached hereto as Attachment B) with the State Water Resources Control Board for a three-year period in the amount of \$372,675, not to exceed \$124,225 annually, for ocean water quality monitoring and public notification services related to the State Water Board's Public Beach Water Safety Program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 (Fiscal Years 2025-2026 through 2027-2028);
  - ii) Approve and authorize the County Health Director, or designee, to execute future amendments to the Grant Agreement (No. D2514113), if State funds are made available, including changes to the scope of work required under the grant provided that the additional award is within ten percent (10%) of the previous annual amount, upon review and concurrence by County Counsel's Office, subject to the Board's authority to rescind this delegation at any time;
  - iii) Approve and authorize the County Health Director, or designee, to make and sign all required certifications and to submit any required documents, invoices, and reports required to obtain grant funding related to the Grant Agreement (No. D2514113); and

- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a “Project” within the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and are exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), because it consists of the creation of governmental funding mechanisms or other governmental fiscal activities that do not involve any commitment to any specific project, which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda to adopt a resolution approving, ratifying, and authorizing the County Health Director to enter into a grant agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) in the amount of \$372,675, not to exceed \$124,225 annually, for the County to provide ocean water quality monitoring and public notification services related to the State Water Board’s Public Beach Water Safety Program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

This item also authorizes the County Health Director, or designee, to make all required certifications and execute future amendments to the Grant Agreement, including changes to the scope of work that do not exceed more than 10% of the previous annual amount. The State Water Board requires a resolution from the Board of Supervisors authorizing the Grant Agreement and identifying the County’s Authorized Representative by title.

**Discussion:**

State law mandates that the local health officer monitor beaches during the “dry weather” season from April 1 to October 31 if the State Legislature has appropriated funds for that fiscal year. The State Legislature has appropriated funds for FY 2025-26 and ocean water quality monitoring was necessary beginning July 1, 2025. The State Water Board did not complete the revenue agreement process to make funds available until after the start of the grant agreement year. Program services have been continued by Environmental Health Services (EHS) in anticipation of State funding based on the mandatory duty State law imposed on the local health officer and on the importance of the program to public health. Grant agreement documents from the State were received by EHS on January 21, 2026. Funds from this grant agreement will reimburse work completed since July 1, 2025.

Today’s requests to the Board of Supervisors are to ratify the acceptance of the grant agreement for Fiscal Year 2025-26 and authorize the County Health Director to execute the grant agreement with the State Water Board in the amount of \$372,675, not to exceed \$124,225 annually, to provide ocean water quality monitoring services at public beaches for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028.

**Background:**

In 1997, AB 411 Beach Sanitation: Posting (Health and Safety Code Chapter 765) established criteria to identify which beaches are mandated to be monitored for water quality and at what frequency. The AB 411 criteria includes two areas, beaches with storm drains that discharge to the beach during dry weather, and those that are visited by more than 50,000 people per year.

Beaches that meet these criteria are mandated to be monitored at least weekly from April 1 through October 31 by the local health officer or environmental health agency. Beginning in 1999, State of California (State) regulations implementing AB 411 required local officials to post warning signs at beaches when bacteria levels exceed State health standards. Funding is made available by the State Water Board through its Public Beach Safety Grant Program. Each year the County Health Department EHS has entered into a grant agreement with the State to receive funds to locally implement the ocean water quality monitoring program.

This Public Beach Water Safety Program protects the health of millions of visitors and residents each year who recreate at local beaches. The program consists of ocean water testing year-round at 16

beach locations throughout the County of Santa Barbara, including 5 county-owned and operated beaches. During the last fiscal year (FY 2024-25), EHS collected and evaluated 844 ocean water samples and posted 33 warnings at 10 beaches. When water quality monitoring results do not meet State health standards, EHS posts beach warnings and informs the public to avoid water contact and, when necessary, issues beach closures when sewage or other contamination may impact water recreation, such as swimming and surfing.

The Grant Agreement (No. D2514113) is the mechanism by which the State Water Board reimburses the County for the cost of performing these services.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Funding for the project will come from the State Water Board’s Public Beach Safety Grant. Sufficient appropriations were included in the FY2025-26 Adopted Budget and future fiscal year funding will be included in the department’s requested budget, subject to Board approval. There is no anticipated cost to the General Fund. The State Water Board may terminate or reduce the amount of grant funding if the Beach Safety Program receives insufficient funding to provide the grant funds in any fiscal year; or may terminate or amend the agreement if there is a change in law rendering reimbursement of grant funds to violate or conflict with state or federal law, policies, or regulations as currently written. The County must complete the project services and cover costs in excess of available grant funds. However, funds have already been allocated for disbursement to the County by the State Water Board in the Governor’s Budget adopted for FY 2025-26 and there is low risk to the County that it will not be reimbursed for its costs to complete project services. Should State funding be reduced in future years, the County could reduce the scope, duration, and extent of ocean water quality monitoring to ensure the County’s costs are covered by the Grant allocation.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

Funding Source	FY 2025-26	FY 2026-27	FY 2027-28	Total
State	\$124,225	\$124,225	\$124,225	\$372,675
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$124,225</b>	<b>\$124,225</b>	<b>\$124,225</b>	<b>\$372,675</b>

The County Health Department has implemented the Public Beach Safety Grant Program (ocean water quality monitoring) since 1999. Adopting, ratifying, and authorizing the Chair to execute the attached resolution will allow the County Health Director to enter into a Grant Agreement in the amount of \$372,675 for three years, from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2028, with an annual amount not to exceed \$124,225. Grant funds provide reimbursement for EHS costs to complete the mandated service, including staff salaries and benefits, laboratory costs, services and supplies, and indirect costs.

**Staffing Impacts:**

There is no staffing impact associated with this Board item.

**Special Instructions:**

Request the Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the signed resolution and a copy of the Minute Order to the County Health Department, [PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcphd.org](mailto:PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcphd.org)

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – Resolution Authorizing a Public Beach Safety Grant Agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board

**Attachment B** – State of California Beach Monitoring Draft Grant Agreement, No. D2514113

**Attachment C** – Notice of Exemption

**Contact Information:**

Jason Johnston  
Environmental Health Services Director  
[jjohnston@sbcphd.org](mailto:jjohnston@sbcphd.org)