



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

Department Name: Public Health
Department No.: 041
For Agenda Of: November 6, 2012
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director(s) Public Health Department
Contact Info: Lawrence D. Fay, Jr.
Director, Environmental Health Services, 346-8463
SUBJECT: Grant Agreement #12-048-250 for Ocean Water Quality Monitoring & Public Notification Services

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors consider the following recommendations regarding “Beach Monitoring”:

- a) Approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to enter into a Grant Agreement (Number 12-048-250) with the State of California to provide public beach water quality monitoring and public notification services in the amount of \$75,361 for the period July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.
- b) Determine that these activities are exempt from California Environmental Quality Act review per CEQA Guideline Section 15061(b)(3), since it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities may have a significant effect on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to authorize a grant agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. The California Health and Safety Code requires public beaches be sampled at least once a week during the period of April 1 – October 31. As a mandated local program, the California Constitution requires that the State reimburse local jurisdictions for the cost of performing this water quality monitoring. As a result of State budget shortfalls, money from the State’s General Fund for this program has been eliminated. As of July 1, 2012 a sustainable funding source has been identified by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) and the SWRCB seek to enter into a grant agreement, whereby the SWRCB will reimburse the County, up to the limits of this agreement, for the cost of monitoring, cleanup, abatement activities and the reporting of water quality at public beaches from July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013.

Background:

In July 1999, Assembly Bill 411 revised the California Health & Safety Code to require that coastal jurisdictions monitor the quality of the water adjacent to public beaches. The statute and the ensuing regulations developed pursuant to the statute, stipulated that public beaches, as defined, were to be sampled for bacteria at least weekly between April 1 and October 31. The results of the weekly monitoring were to be made available to the public by various methods. Beaches that did not meet the water quality standards specified in the regulations were to be posted with warning signs or closed if deemed necessary by the local Health Officer.

As a mandated program, the California Constitution requires that the State reimburse local jurisdictions for costs incurred due to ocean water monitoring and public notification during these months. As a result of the ongoing State budget shortfalls, funding for the ocean water monitoring program through the State's General Fund was eliminated. In response, the SWRCB backfilled this funding gap with other sources until recently when Senate Bill 482 passed with provisions for funding the local agency contracts for the Fiscal Year 2012-13, effective July 1, 2012.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval and acceptance of these funds from the SWRCB to Santa Barbara County Environmental Health Services will provide beach water quality monitoring and public notification services for the period of July 2012 through June 2013. Although the agreement expires on 9/30/2013, at the end of a Federal Fiscal year, the funds will be used by June 2013.

The ocean water monitoring program was included in the PHD FY 2012-13 recommended budget for twelve months of testing, which included this revenue source. Acceptance of these funds will not increase the need for additional General Fund contribution or result in the need for additional facilities.

Special Instructions:

Please email an electronic copy of the Minute Order to PHD Contracts Unit at: PHDcu@sbcphd.org

Attachments:

State of California Funding Agreement 12-048-250

Authored by:

David Brummond, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist, Environmental Health Services