

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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Agenda Number:

Prepared on: 6/13/02
Department: Public Health
Budget Unit: 041
Agenda Date: 8/6/02
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Roger E. Heroux, Director
Public Health Department

STAFF CONTACT: Jinna Lessard, Community Health Manager, x5252
Nancy Lapolla, EMS Director, x5264

SUBJECT: Supplemental Funding for Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Execute the Standard Agreement for Supplemental funding for public health preparedness and response for Bioterrorism for the period February 19, 2002 through August 30, 2003 with the State of California for \$124,671.
- B. Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute the subsequent Standard Agreement with the State of California for Supplemental funding for public health preparedness and response for Bioterrorism for the period of July 1, 2002 through August 30, 2003 in the amount of \$468,132 .
- C. Authorize the Director of the Public Health Department to execute the subsequent Standard Agreement with the State of California for biologic laboratory capacity for the period July 1, 2002 through August 30, 2003 in the amount of \$41,675.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 2 to ensure a safe and healthy community in which to live, work, and visit.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In response to the heightened threat of bioterrorism, Congress authorized funding through the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund (Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act, 42 U.S.C. 247 d) to support countering potential biological threats to the civilian population. This funding is provided under the Department of Defense and Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for Recovery from and Response to

Terrorist Attacks on the United States Act, 2002 (Public Law 107-117). The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has made funding available to local health jurisdictions for public health preparedness and bioterrorism response. These federal dollars will be passed through the California State Department of Health Services and are allocated to jurisdictions based on a \$100,000 base plus an allocation for population. The total amount allocated for Santa Barbara County will be \$592,803 for the period of February 19, 2002 through August 30, 2003.

The State Department of Health Services will release the first 20% of the allocation (\$124,671) to the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department upon execution of this Standard Agreement. The First Phase allocation is for immediate expenditures associated with the planning and development of our local implementation plan. A Coordinator and an Office Assistant will be utilized to develop the plan. In the Second Phase, the remaining 80% (\$468,132) will be allocated for the implementation of the local plan. These remaining funds will be released upon submission of the Department's strategic Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan, which is due September 15, 2002. Should our work plan require additional staff, we will return to the Board at that time with the details of the work plan and justification for the additional staff. Expenditures from this Agreement are limited to those activities that support local public health planning efforts. Up to 10 percent of the total award (\$59,280) may be used for public health bioterrorism-related recovery costs incurred between September 11, 2001 and February 19, 2002.

Eligible local health jurisdictions' planning and response activities must address each of the following six focus areas (required by CDC), including 14 benchmarks.

- Focus Area A: Preparedness Planning and Readiness Assessment
- Focus Area B: Surveillance and Epidemiology Capacity
- Focus Area C/D: Laboratory Capacity for Biological and Chemical Agents
- Focus Area E: Health Alert Network/Communications and Information Technology
- Focus Area F: Communicating Health Risks and Health Information Dissemination
- Focus Area G: Education and Training

The overall goal of the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department preparedness plan will be to improve our capacity and to work in collaboration with medical practitioners, emergency management agencies, and law enforcement entities to build a better public health bioterrorism response system.

Performance measures for bioterrorism response include:

- By September 15, 2002, submit the Department's strategic Bioterrorism Preparedness Plan to the State Department of Health Services.
- By October 31, 2002, institute a bioterrorism working group comprised of members or appointees of the current Emergency Medical Services Agency Disaster Planning Advisory Committee.
- By March 31, 2003, identify local personnel to be trained in receiving and managing the distribution of items, such as antibiotics, vaccines, and medical material from the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile, which could potentially protect citizens from illness in the event of large-scale infectious disease exposure.
- By August 30, 2003, develop processes for education and the dissemination of information to the public about exposure risks and effective public response.

Additional performance measures will be developed as future funding is made available.

Mandates and Service Levels:

Acceptance of these funds is not mandated.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Approval of this Agreement will not increase the use of the General Fund or Public Health Department special revenue fund. This Agreement does provide for the payment of direct and indirect costs associated with the Department's planning and response activities.

The initial payment of \$124,617 represents 20% of the allocation of \$592,803 and is intended to be used for expenditures associated with the development of the Department's local implementation plan. Although one-half of this amount, or \$59,280, can be used to reimburse expenses incurred between September 11, 2001 and February 19, 2002, it is anticipated that all initial funds will be needed for the prospective costs of the development and implementation of the plan. After the plan is developed and submitted, the State will send another standard agreement for the balance of the funds, \$468,132, which will be used for its implementation.

The \$124,617 will be used for the immediate assignment of a 1.0 FTE HCS Program Administrator and a .50 FTE Office Assistant II to oversee and provide staff work for the development of the plan. With the related operating supplies expenditures for these positions (computers, office supplies, communication), the costs for the positions is estimated at \$108,711. In addition, \$15,906 will be used to purchase one-time items needed for both the development and the initial implementation phases of the plan. These items include meeting space rental and expenses, printing, graphics, and GIS services, and books and other resource materials. Acceptance of these actions will result in increasing the Emergency Medical Services cost center budget, displayed on page D-176 of the FY 2002-03 County Operating Plan document, from \$1,404,168 to \$1,528,785. A budget revision will follow upon adoption of the recommendations.

In addition to the planning and recovery phases, the federal project includes \$41,675 for biologic laboratory capacity.

Adequate office space for new or re-assigned staff will be found within the Public Health Department, thereby minimizing any facilities impact.

Special Instructions:

Return all 7 signed copies of the Agreement and 2 Certified Minute Orders to the Department, attention: Hortencia Cruz. Once the State signatures are obtained, a full-executed original of the Agreement will be returned to the Clerk of the Board.

Concurrence:

None required