



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: April 2, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Mouhanad Hammami, Director
Director Public Health Department
Contact Info: Matthew Higgs, (805) 450-6483
ELC Program Manager
SUBJECT: Extensions of Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection and ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion Funding Allocations

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive a two-year extension for the funding period of the Epidemiology and Laboratory capacity (ELC) Enhancing Detection allocation by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266 for a revised end date of July 31, 2026 without a change in the funding amount of \$6,112,535;
- b) Approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive a two-year extension for the funding period of the ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion allocation by the CDPH from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260 for a revised end date of July 31, 2026 without a change in the funding amount of \$19,162,899; and
- c) Determine that the above recommended actions are not a "Project" with the meaning of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") and are exempt per CEQA Guideline section 15378(b)(4), since the recommended actions are a government fiscal activity which will not involve 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 approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive an extension to the Epidemiology and Laboratory capacity (ELC) funding allocations for an additional two-year period from August 1, 2024 to July 31, 2026 for ELC Enhancing Detection and ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion allocations to Santa Barbara County by the California Department of Public Health.

These funding allocations provide critical resources to the local Public Health Department in support of a broad range of COVID 19/SARS-CoV-2 testing and epidemiologic surveillance related activities. These allocations can be used for increased response capacity and staffing levels during the coronavirus-related public health emergency, to provide support for increased testing and disease containment, to lay the foundation for future public health surveillance, and to enhance the overall epidemiology and laboratory capacity of the Public Health Department.

Background:

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), through the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), has made two ELC allocation awards available to local health departments as part of the historic U.S. response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

- 1) The ELC Enhancing Detection award in the amount of \$6,112,535.00 was accepted by your Board on October 13, 2020 (for the period of May 18, 2020 through November 17, 2022) and ratified by your Board for extension on October 18, 2022 (for the period of May 18, 2020 through July 31, 2024). This funding comes from the CDC from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act HR 266; and
- 2) The ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion in the amount of \$19,162,899.00 that was accepted by your Board on May 4, 2021 (for the period of January 15, 2021 through July 31, 2023) and ratified by your Board for extension on October 18, 2022 (for the period of January 15, 2021 through July 31, 2024). This funding comes from the CDC from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021, P.L. 116-260.

The Santa Barbara County Public Health Department (PHD) has used these awards to build infrastructure to protect the community by preventing, vaccinating, and testing for COVID-19 and Monkeypox. PHD has also used these awards to increase capacity to respond to future infectious disease emergencies and address issues of public health concern. The funding extension will be used to maintain, or increase, health capacity and staffing levels to continue to address necessary public health epidemiological surveillance and laboratory testing.

The awards span six different strategies and has provided the majority of the PHD's funding to respond to the COVID-19 and Monkeypox emergencies. The awards have also allowed the Department to improve infrastructure to address other emerging infections, and conditions of public health significance over the last four years; while prioritizing and targeting resources to those most vulnerable. The awards will continue to be used locally to help maintain, or increase, the Department's capacity by supporting a portion of staffing costs associated with epidemiology and the laboratory, staff training, infectious disease emergency response planning, COVID-19 outbreak investigations, outreach to vulnerable populations, laboratory equipment and software, surveillance and diagnostic research, and enhancements to electronic health information data collection and reporting.

The recommended actions today are to approve and authorize the Public Health Department Director to accept and receive extensions to the CDPH ELC funding allocations (Attachment A) for the period of August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026.

Performance Measure:

CDPH requires that the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department follow its submitted work plan and spend plan for the funds. The Department reports on progress of planned activities and expenditures on a quarterly basis.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Approving and authorizing the PHD Director to accept and receive these extensions will allow PHD to continue to charge ELC activities to these allocations for the periods of August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026 for ELC Enhancing Detection, and August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2026 for ELC Enhancing Detection Expansion. There are no changes to the dollar amounts of either allocation and the anticipated amount of spending appropriation has been included in the Public Health FY 2023/2024 adjusted and FY 2024/2025 recommended budgets.

Special Instructions:

Request the Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the minute order by email to the Public Health Department Contracts Unit at PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcphd.org when available.

Attachments:

- A. ELC Enhancing Detection and ELC Expansion Funding Extension Letter

Authored by:

Matthew Higgs, ELC Program Manager, Public Health Department