



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Treasurer-Tax Collector
Department No.: 065
Agenda Date: June 10, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): *[Signature]* Harry E. Hagen, CPA, CCMT, CPFA, CPFO, CFIP, CGIP, ACPFIM
Treasurer-Tax Collector-Public Administrator-Veterans' Services
Contact: Arlene Diaz, Public Services Division Chief, Veterans' Services
SUBJECT: 2025-2026 Veterans' Services Office –Subvention and Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Programs

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the California Department of Veterans Affairs Subvention Certificate of Compliance, Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- b) Approve and authorize the Chair to execute the California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance, Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
- c) Determine that the above-recommended actions are not a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), finding that the actions consist of administrative activities of government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

Summary Text:

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) requires that counties participate in the funding programs offered through the State to meet certain criteria, as set forth in the County Subvention and the Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Programs. Two documents are prerequisites to

obtain State funding for programs addressing the needs of veterans and their beneficiaries residing within Santa Barbara County.

Discussion:

A Veteran County Service Officer (VSO) is a trained and accredited county employee who assists veterans, their dependents, and survivors. In 2010, Rhonda Murphy was appointed as the VSO. Ms. Murphy and the five Veterans' Services Representatives she supervises help veterans gather the necessary paperwork to support and file claims and assist in appealing claims that have been denied. They provide a variety of services to veterans living in Santa Barbara, including but not limited to: disability compensation, employment assistance, education eligibility and benefits, VA health care eligibility and assistance, mental health resources, financial support, housing resources, caregiver and family support, and death and burial benefits.

The Subvention Certificate of Compliance specifies that the County has appointed a County Veterans Service Officer in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 12, Subchapter 4, and complies with the regulations required by CalVet to receive Subvention funds.

The Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance specifies that the County has appointed a County Veterans Service Officer in accordance with the California Code of Regulations, Title 12, Subchapter 4, and complies with the regulations required by CalVet for the funding of this program.

Background:

The Board's annual approval and execution of the California Department of Veterans Affairs Subvention Certificate of Compliance and the California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance are necessary for participation in these funding programs.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

It is budgeted that the County will receive \$240,340 during the 2025/2026 fiscal year to offset costs associated with the Veterans' Services Program resulting from participation in the Subvention Program and the Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Programs. A General Fund funded program, the total budgeted cost of providing Veterans' Services is \$725,030 for FY 2025/2026, \$240,340 of which is anticipated to be reimbursed through the State.

Special Instructions:

Please send the second set of originals of the Subvention Certificate of Compliance and the Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program Certificate of Compliance, along with two certified copies of the Minute Order to the Office of the Treasurer-Tax Collector – Santa Barbara, Attn: Arlene Diaz.

Attachments:

Attachment A – California Department of Veterans Affairs Subvention Certificate of Compliance, Fiscal Year 2025-2026

**Attachment B – California Department of Veterans Affairs Annual Medi-Cal Cost Avoidance Program
Certificate of Compliance, Fiscal Year 2025-2026**

Contact Information:

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