



**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: June 10, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mouhanad Hammami, Director, County Health Department
Contact: Jack Mohr, Manager, Equity, Wellness, and Prevention Program
SUBJECT: Authorize Application Submittal for a Local Tobacco Enforcement Grant from the California State Department of Justice

Signed by:
Mouhanad Hammami
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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize the Director of the County Health Department, or Designee, to submit a Tobacco Grant Program application to the California State Department of Justice in the amount not to exceed \$ 578,560 for the period November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2028 (Fiscal Years 2025-26 through 2028-29); and
- b) Determine, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), that the recommended action is not a project subject to CEQA review because it consists of the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government 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 authorize the County Health Department (County Health) to submit a grant application to the California Department of Justice (DOJ) in the amount of \$578,560 for the period November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2028 (Fiscal Years 2025-26 through 2028-29). This grant would allow County Health, in partnership with the Sherriff's Department, to expand or to enhance existing tobacco enforcement activities through local Tobacco Retail License programs in

Santa Barbara County. The Tobacco Grant Program is a reimbursement grant that does not require matched local funding.

Background:

The California State Department of Justice makes supplemental funding available to local agencies involved in tobacco law enforcement activities including the management of Tobacco Retail License (TRL) programs. Funding is offered on an annual basis for awards lasting three years. Approval of these recommended actions will allow the County Health Department to apply for grant funds to support existing tobacco enforcement activities in partnership with the County Sheriff's Department, and to engage in increased coordination with city jurisdictions to improve overall tobacco enforcement within the County.

There are 329 tobacco retailers that are currently operating in Santa Barbara County that are licensed with the State of California to sell cigarettes or tobacco products directly to the public. In addition to State licensing, local jurisdictions are also able to impose additional tobacco retail licensing requirements, which can help to manage the impacts of tobacco on the health of local communities and fund local tobacco prevention education. Local tobacco retail licensing varies across jurisdictions within the County. The County Health Department manages a local TRL program serving unincorporated Santa Barbara County and the cities of Goleta and Carpinteria. The Cities of Santa Barbara, Guadalupe and Santa Maria have their own TRL programs that are managed by each jurisdiction. The Cities of Buellton, Solvang and Lompoc currently do not have similar programs and do not contract with the County to run a local TRL program.

Current enforcement activities for the County's TRL program include conducting annual observational visits to tobacco retailers (98 such visits were completed in 2024, with 26 retailers found to be non-compliant), responding to complaints about improper operations or underage tobacco sales (to youth less than 21 years of age), coordinating and reimbursing the County Sheriff's Department for undercover buy operations, and providing retailer education on local and State tobacco laws, including enforcement of a statewide ban on flavored e-cigarettes. This is a particular challenge for Santa Barbara County as the California Healthy Kids Survey (in FY 2022-23) indicated that:

- 32% of high school students reported that it is "Very Easy" for them to get vape products and 12% reported that it is "Fairly Easy"; and
- 24% of high school students used a vape product within the past 30 days.

While this program is limited to serving unincorporated Santa Barbara County and the cities of Goleta and Carpinteria, the County Health Department also provides education on tobacco-related harms and tobacco control practices to the public and community groups that span all jurisdictions within the County.

The State DOJ grant prioritizes funding for activities that result in increased enforcement of state and local tobacco laws and ordinances to prevent underage tobacco sales to youth, coordination of local agency task forces on tobacco enforcement, and increasing education for retailers and enforcement officers on local ordinances. The County Health Department is seeking additional funding to expand ongoing enforcement efforts of the County's TRL program, implement a local enforcement taskforce with all County jurisdictions, and to provide education and technical assistance for local jurisdictions to develop new TRL programs or make improvements to their existing programs. The Tobacco Grant Program is a reimbursement grant that does not require matched local funding.

If awarded, funds would be provided beginning November 1, 2025 and continue for a three-year period. The total requested funding will be \$578,560 over the three-year life cycle of the grant. The recommended action today requests your Board's approval to submit a grant application for

supplemental tobacco enforcement funding, and we would return to the Board to request authorization to accept a grant award and for approval to execute a grant agreement with the State DOJ, if awarded.

Performance Measure:

N/A

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025-2026	FY 2026-2027	FY 2027-2028	FY 2028-2029	Total
State	\$130,915	\$186,968	\$201,041	\$59,636	\$578,560
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Upon award of the grant and Board approval to accept the grant award, the projected financial impact would be an increase in appropriations of \$130,915 in FY 2025-26 and \$578,560 total over the three-year term of the grant in the Health Department Health Care Fund for Salaries and Benefits, Services and Supplies, and Other Costs funded by unanticipated revenue per the grant award. If awarded, the department will return to the Board with an authorizing resolution to accept the grant award and to approve a budget revision for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Staffing Impacts:

In order to fulfill the planned grant activities, the County Health Department Tobacco Prevention Program would appoint a 1 FTE limited term position for no more than the duration of the grant term awarded. The position will support coordination of the proposed task force, provide technical assistance to jurisdictions creating or updating their TRL program, and assist with existing TRL responsibilities.

Special Instructions:

Request the Clerk of the Board to email one copy of the original adopted resolution and one Minute Order to the County Health Department, Attention: PHDGROUPEContractsUnit@sbcphd.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Tobacco Grant Program Fiscal Year 2025-26 Request for Proposals

Attachment B – Letter of Support from County Sheriff’s Department

Contact Information:

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 Manager, EWPP
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