



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:

Department Name: CEO

Department No.: 012

For Agenda Of: July 14, 2020

Placement: Administrative

Estimated Time:

Continued Item: No

If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Director (s): Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer

Contact Info: Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: Response to 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report: Santa Barbara County Coroner's Bureau

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Consider and adopt the responses set forth in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the 2019-20 Grand Jury report entitled "Santa Barbara County Coroner's Bureau," Attachment B;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included in Attachment A and forward the letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court; and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(5) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because they are government administrative activities that does not result in direct or indirect physical changes to the environment.

Summary Text:

On May 10, 2020, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury published a report entitled “Santa Barbara County Coroner’s Bureau – Still a Substandard Facility.” Today, the Board will consider the County’s proposed response to the report, adopt their preferred response and authorize the Board Chair to sign the response letter. The Board is required to respond in writing to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court by August 9, 2020.

Background:

The Grand Jury concluded: “As has been reported by many previous Grand Juries in 2012-13, 2014-15 and 2015-16, and reconfirmed by the 2019-20 Santa Barbara County Grand Jury, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff-Coroner’s facility should be replaced as soon as possible. The Jury finds that the serious inadequacies of the facility jeopardize the health and safety of the staff and the public.”

“The Grand Jury recommends that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors establish an independent Coroner’s Bureau, one that can be accredited by the National Association of Medical Examiners. Santa Barbara County has recently faced many deaths from natural disasters, man-made emergencies, accidents and pandemics. There should be a new, fully accredited facility to meet the challenges of the 21st century.”

The County Board of Supervisors is required to respond to Findings 1, 2, 9, 10 and Recommendations 1, 2, 9, 10. The Sheriff’s Office is required to respond to Findings 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and Recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Staff anticipates no fiscal or facilities impacts as a result of the Board’s action on this matter.

Special Instructions:

1. As per Recommended Action b), above, please forward the original signed letter and responses to the Presiding Judge of Santa Barbara County Superior Court.
2. Please send a copy of the signed letter and a copy of the minute order to Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, CEO’s office.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Board of Supervisors Response
- Attachment B: FY 2019-20 Grand Jury Report

Authored by:

Richard Morgantini, Fiscal & Policy Analyst, County Executive Office