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July 25, 2003

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Thomas L. Garthwaite, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

SUBJECT: **BIOTERRORISM ACTION PLAN QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT**

As requested by your Board, this is the quarterly status report on activities related to the bioterrorism action plan.

### **Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Funds**

The Basic and Expanded level hospital agreements approved by your Board in January have been finalized with 52 of the 82 9-1-1 receiving hospitals choosing to participate in the program. The 36 hospitals participating at the expanded level received \$44,220 for funding of their fixed decontamination capability.

The National Bioterrorism Hospital Preparedness Program Cooperative Agreement Application for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003 (August 31, 2003 - August 30, 2004) was submitted by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Agency to HRSA on July 1. Los Angeles County is awaiting the approval and Notice of Grant Award (NGA) for the \$15,583,364 that is being allocated to the Department of Health Services (DHS). This grant award will subsequently be brought to your Board for approval.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Funds**

The CDC Bioterrorism Advisory Committee met on May 15 and discussed the new CDC Guidance for 2004. As one of the new requirements for 2004, this committee will be consolidated with the Hospital Bioterrorism Preparedness Planning Committee for the

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Health Resources and Services Administration Grant currently managed by the EMS Agency.

The Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism continuation application for Budget Year Four (August 31, 2003 - August 30, 2004) was submitted by Public Health to CDC on July 1. Los Angeles County is awaiting approval and NGA for the \$24,531,232 that is being allocated to DHS. This grant award will subsequently be brought to your Board for approval.

### **CDC and HRSA Joint Activities**

The Smallpox Vaccination Program, which was implemented in January to vaccinate Public Health and Hospital Smallpox Response Teams, has been extended to First Responder Agencies. Each First Responder Agency has been asked to decide whether it will participate in vaccinating personnel and to identify the staff who have volunteered for vaccination.

The Department continues to develop the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) plan with the approved contractor, Community Research Associates, Inc. This plan addresses the receipt and distribution of medications and medical supplies to the community in the event of a terrorist attack. Recruitment of a Chief Pharmacist to manage this program on a full-time basis is a high priority.

The Federal Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (OIG) made a site visit to review the status of the SNS planning in Los Angeles County. They have issued a report and have made recommendations in the areas of training, public communications and referrals to treatment centers.

The OIG also conducted an audit of the financial accounting systems for the CDC and HRSA grants on May 20. The Department will keep the Board apprised of their findings.

The EMS Agency and Public Health have completed a guidebook entitled "Terrorism Agent Information and Treatment Guidelines for Clinicians and Hospitals," which will be distributed to hospitals, emergency departments, infectious disease specialists and other medical professionals. A copy will be provided to your Board once they have been printed.

### **Other Terrorism Preparedness Funds**

The United States Department of Homeland Security, Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) Grant Programs provides grants to support regional planning and cooperation between first responders defined as police, fire and EMS.

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At the local level, the County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) oversees and manages these grants. In May and June, three ODP grants were awarded to the County. The Department has been actively involved in these grants, participating on the Task Force tasked with setting the funding priorities, as well as, serving as a member of the Approval Authority. The Department also received funding for equipment to support Operational Medicine and Public Health Response capabilities.

As requested, I will continue to provide quarterly updates on these grants and terrorism preparedness activities. Please let me know if you have any questions.

TLG:cg:kf  
203:006 and C/R 111:005

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors