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Director and Chief Medical Officer

FRED LEAF
Chief Operating Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
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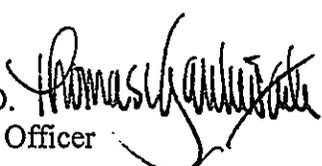
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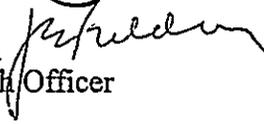
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October 6, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

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

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. 
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **MEDICAL MARIJUANA**

On July 27, 2005 the Department of Health Services (DHS) provided an update on the status of implementation of California Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program in Los Angeles County. This is a status report on developments since our July 27, 2005 report.

On August 18, 2005 The California Department of Health Services (CDHS) issued guidelines for implantation of the identification card program and requested that jurisdiction prepare to implement the program as soon as possible. We have identified the staffing and equipment necessary to implement this program and are in the process of determining its recommended organizational placement. Public Health, working with Finance, has prepared a budget detailing anticipated program implementation costs. These costs are being used to determine the annual fee for the identification card.

We have estimated the probable number of potential applicants so that we can recommend a fee for the Board's approval to recover the program's cost, working with the Chief Administrative Officer and the Auditor-Controller. County Counsel is drafting the required ordinance changes to allow for implementation of the identification card program.

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We anticipate sending the required implementation plan to CDHS in November. Once the plan is received, CDHS will train DHS staff to implement the identification card program. CDHS staff has indicated that if they receive our implementation plan in November they will be able to have our site ready to accept identification cards in January 2006.

Public Health staff attended the September 30, 2005 meeting of the Los Angeles County Medical Marijuana Task Force and provided an update on program implementation.

Within 60 days, we will file a Board letter for your agenda to recommend approval of positions and appropriation to implement the program and an ordinance to establish the fee. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

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