STEVE COOLEY
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

18000 CLARA SHORTRIDGE FOLTZ CRIMINAL JUSTICE CENTER
210 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012-3210 (213) 974-3501

March 20, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (OES) FOR THE VERTICAL PROSECUTION BLOCK GRANT - FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2007-08 (ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the District Attorney, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to submit a grant application to OES for the Vertical Prosecution Block Grant (VPBG) in the amount of $1,376,614 for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. The VPBG includes the Major Narcotics Vendors Prosecution (MNVP) and Elder Abuse Vertical Prosecution (EAVP) Programs.

2. Request the Chair of the Board to sign and affix a wet signature to the enclosed Certification of Assurance of Compliance form, as required by OES to complete the application.

3. Upon award of grant funding by OES, authorize the District Attorney, or his designee, to accept and execute the Grant Award Agreement. This also includes authorization to approve any subsequent amendments, modifications, and/or extensions to the grant award that do not increase net County cost.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The California State Budget Act of 2003-04 combined the five general funded Vertical Prosecution Programs administered through OES into one Block Program with five designated components. Total program funding was reduced by 50%. At that time, the department evaluated the eligible vertical prosecution programs and determined that the grant funding would be best used to support the EAVP and MNVP Programs. Since that time, this grant has provided support for these two programs in the District Attorney's Office.

On February 8, 2007, OES released the Request for Application (RFA) for the 2007-08 VPBG that requires applicants to complete a Certification of Assurance of Compliance form that includes details regarding an applicant's Equal Employment Opportunity Program (EEOP), Drug Free Workplace Compliance, California Environmental Quality Act Compliance, Lobbying, Debarment and Suspension requirements, and Proof of Authority from the Governing Board. Applicants are required to submit the necessary assurances and documentation before the Grant Award Agreement is finalized.

Board authorization to apply for and accept grant funds is requested in order to comply with OES requirements and submit the completed form by the March 22, 2007 application deadline.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

This program directly supports the District Attorney's core mission to vigorously prosecute felony crime throughout the County of Los Angeles. Authorizing the District Attorney to apply for VPBG funds supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal No. 4, Fiscal Responsibility, by securing an available revenue source at the State level.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The department was allocated $1,376,614 for the 2007-08 fiscal year, which will fully offset program costs.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would either be continued with costs being absorbed by the department, or discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Los Angeles County is the only area in the United States identified by the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) as a primary market for all major drugs of abuse. Receipt of state funds for vertical prosecution of major narcotic vendors has allowed the District Attorney's Office to more effectively prosecute large-scale drug trafficking operations, conduct wiretaps and obtain lengthy prison sentences for offenders.

Los Angeles also has an elderly population exceeding 1 million, and a growing caseload of physical and financial abuse crimes against the elderly. These vulnerable victims benefit from the enhanced services that vertical prosecution provides, allowing them to participate more effectively in the prosecution process.

In FY 2005-06, the EAVP accepted 37 new cases and 20 cases were completed through sentencing. All cases received true vertical prosecution, and all defendants were convicted.

MNVP accepted 113 new cases in FY 2005-06 and 75 were completed through sentencing. Sixty-one defendants were convicted of the most serious charge, and all cases received true vertical prosecution. MNVP deputies are also actively involved in the writing, reviewing and servicing of state wiretap applications. During 2005-06, MNVP deputies presented to the court and managed over 50 wiretap applications.

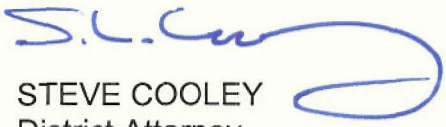
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation from the 2006-07 grant award. Therefore, the District Attorney's Office is not subject to the Board Motion of December 15, 1998, requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Departments.

CONCLUSION

Following Board authorization to submit an application for this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to call Ms. Emily Aidells at 213-202-7674 or Ms. Corina Calixto at 213-202-7653 when two (2) copies of the adopted Board Letter containing original signatures are ready for pick up. Any questions may be directed to Ms. Corina Calixto at the above phone number or via e-mail at ccalixto@lacountyda.org.

Very truly yours,



STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

srg:mmb

Enclosure

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

CERTIFICATION OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE

I, STEVE COOLEY hereby certify that
(official authorized to sign grant award; same person as Section 12 on Grant Award Face Sheet)

RECIPIENT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY

IMPLEMENTING AGENCY: DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

PROJECT TITLE: VERTICAL PROSECUTION BLOCK GRANT

is responsible for reviewing the *Grant Recipient Handbook* and adhering to all of the Grant Award Agreement requirements (state and/or federal) as directed by OES including, but not limited to, the following areas:

I. Equal Employment Opportunity – (2006 Recipient Handbook Section 2151)

It is the public policy of the State of California to promote equal employment opportunity by prohibiting discrimination or harassment in employment because of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, disability (mental and physical) including HIV and AIDS, medical condition (cancer and genetic characteristics), marital status, sex, sexual orientation, denial of family medical care leave, denial of pregnancy disability leave, or age (over 40). **OES-funded projects certify that they will comply with all state and federal requirements regarding equal employment opportunity, nondiscrimination and civil rights.**

Please provide the following information:

Equal Employment Opportunity Officer: JULIE DIXON SILVA

Title: CHIEF, EMPLOYEE RELATIONS DIVISION

Address: 201 N. FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 1455, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Phone: (213) 202-7705

Email: jdsilva@lacountyda. org

II. Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1990 – *(2006 Recipient Handbook, Section 2152)*

The State of California requires that every person or organization awarded a grant or contract shall certify it will provide a drug-free workplace.

III. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – *(2006 Recipient Handbook, Section 2153)*

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (*Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.)* requires all OES funded projects to certify compliance with CEQA. Projects receiving funding must coordinate with their city or county planning agency to ensure that the project is compliance with CEAQ requirements.

IV. Lobbying – (*2006 Recipient Handbook Section 2154)*

OES grant funds, grant property, or grant funded positions shall not be used for any lobbying activities, including, but not limited to, being paid by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the making of any federal grant, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal grant or cooperative agreement.

V. Debarment and Suspension – *(2006 Recipient Handbook Section 2155)*

(This applies to federally funded grants only.)

OES-funded projects must certify that it and its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, sentenced to a denial of federal benefits by a state or federal court, or voluntarily excluded from covered transactions by any federal department of agency.

VI. Proof of Authority from City Council/Governing Board

The above-named organization (applicant) accepts responsibility for and will comply with the requirement to obtain written authorization from the city council/governing board in support of this program. The applicant agrees to provide all matching funds required for said project (including any amendment thereof) under the Program and the funding terms and conditions of OES, and that any cash match will be appropriated as required. It is agreed that any liability arising out of the performance of this Grant Award Agreement, including civil court actions for damages, shall be the responsibility of the grant recipient and the authorizing agency. The State of California and OES disclaim responsibility of any such liability. Furthermore, it is also agreed that grant funds received from OES shall not be used to supplant expenditures controlled by the city council/governing board.

The applicant is required to obtain written authorization from the city council/governing board that the official executing this agreement is, in fact, authorized to do so. The applicant is also required to maintain said written authorization on file and readily available upon demand.

All appropriate documentation must be maintained on file by the project and available for OES or public scrutiny upon request. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in suspension of payments under the grant or termination of the grant or both and the Recipient may be ineligible for award of any future grants if the OES determines that any of the following has occurred: (1) the Recipient has made false certification, or (2) violates the certification by failing to carry out the requirements as noted above.

CERTIFICATION

I, the official named below, am the same individual authorized to sign the Grant Award Agreement [Section 12 on Grant Award Face Sheet], and hereby swear that I am duly authorized legally to bind the contractor or grant recipient to the above described certification. I am fully aware that this certification, executed on the date and in the county below, is made under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California.

Authorized Official's Signature: S.L.C

Authorized Official's Typed Name: STEVE COOLEY

Authorized Official's Title: DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Date Executed: 3/13/07

Federal Employer ID Number: 95-6000927

Executed in the City/County of: LOS ANGELES

AUTHORIZED BY: *(not applicable to State agencies)*

- City/County Financial Officer or
- City/County Manager or
- Governing Board Chair

Signature: _____

Typed Name: ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Title: CHAIR, LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office
Grant Management Statement for Grants Exceeding $100,000

Department: Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Grant Project Title and Description Vertical Prosecution Block Grant

The Vertical Prosecution Program (VPP) block grant was established in the California State Budget Act of FY 2003-04 and consolidated vertical prosecution programs to support intensified efforts by District Attorney Offices statewide. The VPP will seek justice through the enhanced prosecution of Major Narcotic Vendors and Elder Abuse crimes. The objective is to stem the epidemic of serious crime in Los Angeles County through multi-agency efforts that include cooperation with law enforcement, vigorous prosecution and victim assistance. The specially assigned vertical prosecutors will enhance the prosecution of these crimes and ensure that these serious cases and their vulnerable victims receive the utmost attention and effort, in order to protect the community.

Funding Agency	**Program** (Fed. Grant # /State Bill or Code #)	**Grant Acceptance Deadline**
Office of Emergency Services	VB07050190	

Total Amount of Grant Funding: $1,376,614 **County Match:** $0
Grant Period: **Begin Date:** July 1, 2007 **End Date:** June 30, 2008
Number of Personnel Hired Under This Grant: Full Time: MNVP TBD; EAVP TBD **Part Time:** 0

Obligations Imposed on the County When the Grant Expires

Will all personnel hired for this program be informed this is a grant-funded program? Yes X No__

Will all personnel hired for this program be placed on temporary ("N") items? Yes X No__

Is the County obligated to continue this program after the grant expires? Yes __ No X

If the County is not obligated to continue this program after the grant expires, the Department will:

a). Absorb the program cost without reducing other services Yes __ No X

b). Identify other revenue sources Yes __ No X
(Describe)_____

c). Eliminate or reduce, as appropriate, positions/program costs funded by the grant. Yes X No__

Impact of additional personnel on existing space: None.

Department Head Signature S. L. Cu **Date** 3/13/07