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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

49 February 27, 2024

JEFF LEVINSON
INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

February 27, 2024

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:

**BOARD RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT AGREEMENTS FROM THE
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD FOR BEACH MONITORING AND PUBLIC
NOTIFICATION SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH
SEPTEMBER 30, 2028
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of a resolution to apply for and accept grant agreements from the State Water Resources Control Board to support the Department of Public Health's Environmental Health Division Beach Monitoring Program from July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Approve the attached Board Resolution, Exhibit I, delegating authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health (Public Health), or designee, to apply for and accept grants and grant amendments from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), at amounts determined by the SWRCB, for Beach Water Quality Monitoring and Public Notification service for the period of July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2028 with the awarded grants and amendments subject to review and approval as to form by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the Chief Executive Office.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended action will allow Public Health to continue to apply for and accept funds from the SWRCB through September 30, 2028, for beach water quality monitoring and public notification services. These services include, but are not limited to: testing and assessing the waters

adjacent to all public beaches within Public Health's jurisdiction; investigating complaints of violations of any Public Health Standard; posting warning signs and closing beaches as needed for public safety; maintaining and updating a telephone hotline and website to inform the public of all public beaches currently closed, posted, or otherwise restricted; and submitting all location, collection agency, monitoring, and notification data for all monitored sites to the SWRCB.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action supports Strategy II.3.1 Make Environmental Sustainability Our Daily Reality, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The SWRCB funding will support personnel, laboratory, and travel costs for the beach monitoring program, decreasing the amount of existing departmental resources currently utilized to support these public health and safety services.

There is no additional net County cost associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Health and Safety Code sections 115875 through 115915 and the California Code of Regulations sections 7952 through 7962 require weekly testing and assessment of the waters adjacent to all public beaches within Public Health's jurisdiction.

Public Health's Environmental Health Division conducts weekly testing at mainland beaches for total coliform, fecal coliform, and enterococcus bacteria in the Los Angeles County coastal recreation waters from the Ventura County line to the City of Redondo Beach. In addition, every year from April through October, Public Health conducts weekly testing on Santa Catalina Island. Public Health also collects sampling data from partner agencies for public notification purposes. Beaches failing to meet bacteriological standards require public notification to include: 1) posting conspicuous warning signs on the beach to inform the public of the nature of the problem and health risk; 2) closing beaches that are impacted by sewage or other contaminant discharge; 3) reporting bacteria levels, advisories, and closures to the SWRCB through the Beach Watch Database System; and 4) maintaining and updating the telephone hotline and website, as needed, to inform the public of all beaches currently closed or posted with warning signs to convey changes in public health risk. All collection sites, monitoring, and public notification data are submitted to the SWRCB.

Since 2005, your Board has approved Board resolutions that allowed Public Health to apply for and accept grant agreements for beach monitoring and public notification services. The prior resolution expired on September 30, 2023.

Exhibit I has been reviewed and approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Board approval of the recommended action will allow Public Health to accept SWRCB funds to support the continuance of beach water quality monitoring and public notification services, and the collection of site, monitoring, and notification data.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

2/27/2024

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Ferrer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Barbara" and last name "Ferrer" clearly distinguishable.

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd

Director

BF:bf#07405

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Interim Executive Officer, Board of Supervisor

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
PUBLIC BEACH SAFETY GRANT PROGRAM**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING
STATE WATER BOARD GRANT AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the State Water Resources Control Board (hereafter State Water Board) has determined that the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (hereafter Public Health) is eligible to receive funds from the Waste Discharge Permit Fund and the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Contract Health Act Grant, pursuant to Water Code section 13260 and United States Code, Title 33, section 406 respectively, for Ocean Monitoring and Public Notification services, including but not limited to, testing and assessing the waters adjacent to all public beaches within Public Health's jurisdiction; investigating complaints of violations of any Public Health Standard; posting warning signs and closing beaches as needed for public safety; establishing and/or maintaining a telephone hotline and web-based forms of communication to inform public of all public beaches currently closed, posted or otherwise restricted; and submitting all location, collection agency, monitoring, and notification data for all monitored sites to the State Water Board.

WHEREAS, Public Health (applicant) demonstrates it has sufficient resources, technical expertise, and/or experience with similar projects to carry out the proposed programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors authorizes the submission of applications to the State Water Board for the period of 7/01/2023 through 09/30/2028 for funds to support Public Health's Ocean Monitoring activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Director of Public Health, or designee, is hereby authorized and empowered to execute in the name of the County of Los Angeles, all necessary applications, agreements and amendments, to certify that Public Health has complied and will comply with all applicable federal and state statutory and regulatory requirements related to any financial assistance funds received and to be received; and the Public Health Director's designee, is hereby authorized and empowered to sign financial documents, for the purpose of securing/obtaining State Water Board grant funds for the period 7/01/2023 through 09/30/2028, and to implement and carry out the purposes specified in the application(s).

The foregoing resolution was passed on 27th day of February, 2024 adopted by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies and authorities for which said Board so acts.



BARBARA FERRER, Ph.D., M.P.H., M.Ed., Director
Department of Public Health

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
DAWYN R. HARRISON
County Counsel

By 
BLAINE D. MCPHILLIPS
Senior Deputy County Counsel



DEPUTY
JEFF LEVINSON, Interim Executive Officer
of the Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles

