



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Health System



Date: January 20, 2015
Board Meeting Date: June 16, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief, Health System
Heather Forshey, Director, Environmental Health

Subject: Application and acceptance of Groundwater Protection Local Oversight Program Grants from the State Water Resources Control for the oversight and abatement of unauthorized releases of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks.

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution authorizing the Health System on behalf of the County of San Mateo to apply for and accept all available Groundwater Protection Local Oversight Program grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board for Fiscal Years July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1988, the Groundwater Protection Program (GPP) in Environmental Health has been funded by grants from the California Water Resources Control Board (CWRCB). GPP functions as a Local Oversight Program authorized under the California Health and Safety Code for the oversight and abatement of hazardous substances from underground storage tanks. Since being established, the GPP has guided more than 1,100 leaking fuel underground storage tanks cases through characterization, remediation, and final closure. The GPP continues to handle approximately 190 active cases, including sites contaminated by fuels, solvents, metals, and pesticides.

DISCUSSION:

Continued CWRCB grant funding would ensure the GPP's operation and oversight of leaking underground fuel tank remediation cases for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. Currently, approximately 40% FTE of a Program Supervisor, 80% FTE each of a HazMat Specialist IV and three HazMat Specialists III, and 50% FTE of an Office Assistant II are funded by CWRCB grant funding. GPP ensures the timely

characterization and clean-up of fuel releases that could impact the public health and environment of San Mateo County.

Grantees are generally allowed a three-week turnaround to execute a grant agreement. Authorization is therefore being requested to allow the Chief of the Health System on behalf of the County of San Mateo to approve all necessary applications, contracts, payment requests, agreements, amendments and all documents necessary for the purposes of securing grant funds; implement the approved grant projects; and carry out the purposes specified in the grant applications for the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020.

The resolution has been reviewed and approved by County Counsel as to form.

The ability to apply for and manage the GPP grants contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by cleaning up soil and groundwater contamination from leaking underground fuel tank systems. It is anticipated that 91% of remediation facilities will be reviewed by Environmental Health in FY 2014-15.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

| Measure | FY 2014-15 Estimated | FY 2015-16 Projected |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Remediation facilities reviewed | 91% 173 facilities | 91% 173 facilities |

FISCAL IMPACT:

The resolution will authorize the Chief of the Health System, on behalf of the County of San Mateo, to apply for and accept all available grant funds from the CWRCB on the GPP's behalf during the period of July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2020. The CWRCB grant amount for FY 2014-2015 is \$889,243. The appropriations and revenue are included in Environmental Health's FY 2014-2015 Adopted Budget. Similar arrangements will be made in future budget years. There is no net county cost associated with this resolution.