



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Sheriff's Office



Date: October 8, 2013
Board Meeting Date: November 19, 2013
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Greg Munks, Sheriff
Subject: FY 2013 DNA Backlog Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATION:

- A) Adopt a Resolution accepting the FY 2013 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant, for the term of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015, in the amount of \$173,082.
- B) Resolution authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$173,082 from Unanticipated Revenue to Extra-help Regular Hours, Benefits, Employee Training Expense, Computer Equipment, and Supplies for the expenditure of grant funds (4/5ths vote required).

BACKGROUND:

The Forensic DNA Backlog Reduction Program, through the U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, offers an opportunity for States and units of local government with existing crime laboratories that conduct DNA analysis to handle, screen, and analyze backlogged forensic DNA casework samples. This grant program also assists with improving DNA laboratory infrastructure and analysis capacity so that forensic DNA samples can be processed efficiently and cost effectively. These improvements are critical to preventing future DNA backlogs and to helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

As of June 30, 2013, the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory had an estimated 402 backlogged cases awaiting DNA analysis. A backlogged case, as defined by the National Institute of Justice, is one that has not been tested 30 days after submission to the laboratory.

DISCUSSION:

The Sheriff's Office applied for and has been awarded the FY 2013 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant in the amount of \$173,082 for a period of 18 months, commencing October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2015. Funding will assist with overall

turnaround time for the handling, screening, and analysis of forensic DNA samples, increase the throughput of the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory, and reduce existing DNA forensic casework backlogs.

The objectives of the National Institute of Justice's DNA Program are to reduce the number of forensic cases awaiting DNA analysis, to purchase equipment and supplies to improve DNA analysis capacity, and to fund training of forensic DNA laboratory personnel. To successfully achieve the objectives of the DNA Backlog Reduction Program, the Sheriff's Office will apply the award funding towards: 1) funding one extra-help Criminalist position in the Forensic Biology Section; 2) travel and registration costs for two Criminalists to attend a symposium in Phoenix, AZ and the American Academy of Forensic Science Conference in Seattle, WA; 3) the purchase of four laptops; and 4) the purchase of supplies such as DNA Kits.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Approval of this grant award contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Collaborative Community by preventing future DNA backlogs and helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Measures	FY 2012-13 Actual	FY 2013-14 Projected
Average number of forensic DNA samples analyzed per analyst/per month	20.4	17.6
Number of backlogged DNA cases	402	376

The number of backlogged cases is not expected to reduce significantly due to the increase in the number of DNA requests. The continued submission of cold case requests by several agencies may affect the Laboratory's ability to control the backlog of these samples. In calendar year 2012, the Laboratory received 619 new cases for forensic biology/DNA analysis. The average number of days needed to complete all cases in calendar year 2012 was 262.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2013 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award is for the amount of \$173,082, for a period commencing October 1, 2013 to March 31, 2015. This grant does not require any matching County funds. There is no Net County Cost.