



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



Date: November 12, 2014
Board Meeting Date: January 27, 2015
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: 4/5ths

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Greg Munks, Sheriff
Subject: FY 2014 DNA Backlog Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution:

- A) Accepting the FY 2014 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant, for the term of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016, in the amount of \$162,938.
- B) Authorizing an Appropriation Transfer Request in the amount of \$162,938 from Unanticipated Revenue to Extra-help Regular Hours, Benefits, Employee Training Expense, 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, 2014, the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory had an estimated 419 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 2014 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant in the amount of \$162,938, for a period of 24 months, commencing October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2016. 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.

Funds from the DNA Backlog Reduction Program will be applied towards: 1) funding one extra-help Criminalist position in the Forensic Biology Section; 2) travel and registration costs for five Criminalists to attend training and workshops; and 3) 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 MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2013-14 Actual	FY 2014-15 Projected
Average number of forensic DNA samples analyzed per analyst/per month	30	25

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 2013, the Laboratory received 659 new cases for forensic biology/DNA analysis. The average number of days needed to complete all cases in calendar year 2013 was 171.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2014 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award is for the amount of \$162,938, for a period commencing October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016. This grant does not require any matching County funds. There is no Net County Cost.