



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



Date: August 27, 2012
Board Meeting Date: October 2, 2012
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Greg Munks, Sheriff
Subject: FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution accepting the FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant for the term of October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014 in the amount of \$196,512.

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, 2012, the Sheriff's Office Forensic Laboratory had an estimated 384 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 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant in the amount of \$196,512, for a period of 18 months, commencing October 1, 2012 through March 31, 2014. 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 three extra-help Criminalist positions in the Forensic Biology Section; 2) travel and registration costs for two Criminalists to attend a symposium in Washington D.C. and the American Academy of Forensic Science Conference in Atlanta, Georgia; 3) the purchase of a QIAgility System (DNA extraction equipment) and associated software; 4) the purchase of two Nikon DSLR cameras and additional lenses for the documentation of evidence; and 5) 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 Healthy Community by preventing future DNA backlogs and helping the criminal justice system use the full potential of DNA technology.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Measure	FY 2011-12 Actual	FY 2012-13 Target
Average number of forensic DNA samples analyzed per analyst/per month	14.3	20

FISCAL IMPACT:

The FY 2012 DNA Backlog Reduction Program grant award is for the amount of \$196,512, for a period commencing October 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014. This grant does not require any matching County funds. There is no Net County Cost.