



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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## C-8

August 5, 2003

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

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CITY CLERK  
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**SUBJECT: Agreement With the County of Los Angeles for Funding for Public Health Preparedness and Response for Bioterrorism (Citywide)**

### DISCUSSION

Since 2002, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has awarded the County of Los Angeles (County) funding for bioterrorism preparedness and public health infrastructure development to provide for response support to a bioterrorist threat or other similar public health emergency in the County. On October 29, 2002, the City Council authorized an agreement between the County and the City to implement this program in Long Beach. The County has requested a new agreement to continue these services for an additional year. In addition to the current funding level of \$1,115,094, the new agreement will include additional funding to prepare to implement phase II of the National Smallpox Immunization Program (\$161,240) and to coordinate receipt of the Strategic National Pharmaceutical Stockpile (\$104,000), for a total amount not to exceed \$1,380,334. Further, the agreement will allow for expending these funds through August 31, 2005 in the event unexpended funds need to be rolled over.

Over the past two years, the City's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been developing a Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Plan to protect the public from a bioterrorist threat or similar public health emergency. Program accomplishments include:

- **Bioterrorism Preparedness** – Hired a bioterrorism program coordinator to function as a public information staff member for the DHHS to provide program oversight and improve our communication capacity with other public health agencies, safety agencies, and the community. The DHHS has initiated capacity assessments of local providers to respond to specific threats and has provided one of the highest per capita rates of smallpox immunization of emergency responders in the State of California;
- **Disease Surveillance Improvements** – Increased our ability to rapidly identify disease through enhancement of our epidemiology staff, further study of disease trends in our community to identify problems early, and improvement of our communication with local health providers. This also includes some specialized training for DHHS staff and our local care providers to identify disease early and to work closely to perform necessary follow-up investigations;
- **Laboratory Capacity** – Increased the capacity of our local public health laboratory to support our local efforts, as well as build our regional capacity in cooperation with

our public health partners. Enhancements include staff support as well as new equipment purchases to allow the DHHS to expand testing to include biological and chemical agents;

- **Improved Communication and Health Education** – Worked with the County and the State to develop a communication network to rapidly identify disease and initiate a response on a 24-hour/7-day per week basis. This will also include some funding for electronic communication and education systems, including web site development;
- **Risk Communication** – Increased our public education element with health care providers, businesses and individuals in our community to recognize the risks and realities of the possibility of disease being spread, whether intentional or not, in our community.

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Donna Gwin on July 28, 2003 and by Budget Manager Michael Killebrew on July 24, 2003.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action on this matter is requested on August 5, 2003, as the County plans to place this item on the County Board of Supervisors agenda in late-August 2003 to avoid service gaps.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total amount of the agreement is \$1,380,334, including the additional \$265,240 being added to the original funding. Funds will be appropriated in conjunction with the adoption of the FY 04 budget. No match of funds is required on this grant.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents with the County of Los Angeles to accept funding in the amount of \$1,380,334, effective through August 30, 2005, to provide for bioterrorism preparedness and public health infrastructure development.

Respectfully submitted,



RONALD R. ARIAS  
DIRECTOR  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER