



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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October 4, 2005

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the City Manager to execute documents with Impact Assessment Inc., for education and outreach services to reduce the consumption of contaminated fish, in connection with the United States Environmental Protection Agency Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Project, for a term of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006; and increase appropriations in the Health Fund (SR 130) in the Department of Health and Human Services (HE) by \$50,000. (Citywide)

## DISCUSSION

From 1947 to 1983, Montrose Chemical Corporation manufactured Dichloro-Diphenyl-trichloroethane (DDT) at its plant near Torrance, California. The plant discharged wastewater containing the now-banned pesticide into Los Angeles sewers that emptied into the Pacific Ocean off White Point on the Palos Verdes Shelf (PVS). Several other industries also discharged Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) into the Los Angeles sewer system that ended up on the PVS by way of outfall pipes.

The PVS United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Superfund site off the Los Angeles County Palos Verdes Peninsula is among the largest contaminated ocean sediment sites in the United States. In 1990, based on very high levels of contamination, the California Department of Fish and Game created zones off the PVS where the commercial catch of white croaker is banned. Subsequently, the USEPA's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment issued fish consumption advisories for certain fish, including white croaker, caught off the PVS and other Southern California sites because of elevated DDT and PCB levels. In 1996, a study conducted by Heal the Bay showed white croaker with elevated levels of DDT and PCB being sold at markets in Los Angeles and Oranges Counties. In its 1994 report, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) characterized an area of 44 km<sup>2</sup> (17 sq. miles) on the PVS with elevated levels of DDT and PCBs in surface sediments. Subsequent data showed that the effluent-affected DDT- and PCB- contaminated sediments covered a larger area, and USEPA expanded the Palos Verdes Shelf study area to include sediments from Point Fermin in the southeast to the southern edge of the Redondo canyon, northwest of the Palos Verdes peninsula. USEPA's evaluation of potential cleanup actions is focusing on the areas of highest contamination.

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The USEPA Institutional Controls draft report, issued in December 2001, determined that the immediate human health risk was of paramount importance and the most feasible action was to institute measures to convey the health risks by the contaminated sediments to those at the greatest risk.

Impact Assessment Inc., a La Jolla, California based corporation, administers the distribution of USEPA funds. The corporation is a contractual intermediary of the USEPA, the recipient of several million dollars in settlement funds from a lawsuit concerning the original contamination.

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Environmental Health Bureau, will participate in the USEPA Palos Verdes Shelf Fish Contamination Project by conducting outreach, in coordination with the Pier Outreach Committee, to bait stores, temporary food stand operators and vendors, LBCC and CSULB students, and the general public. This will include tracking of outreach, training, and education. The ultimate goal of these efforts is to reduce the consumption of contaminated fish and to raise awareness of the potential health effects to community-based organizations.

This matter was reviewed by Senior Deputy City Attorney Donna F. Gwin and Budget Management Officer David Wodynski on September 23, 2005.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

The DHHS received preliminary notification of the award on January 13, 2005 and has been providing services since July 1, 2005. DHHS recently received the agreement from the State and cannot recover costs until the agreement is approved.

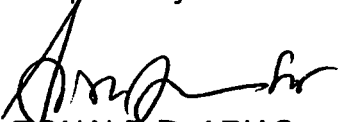
FISCAL IMPACT

The total amount of the agreement is \$50,000 from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. An appropriations increase for this amount is included in the recommendation.

**SUGGESTED ACTION:**

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,



RONALD R. ARIAS  
DIRECTOR  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

APPROVED:



GERALD R. MILLER  
CITY MANAGER