June 11, 2013

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA  94903


Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:
1. Authorize President to execute revised Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin Public Health Laboratory effective July 1, 2013.

SUMMARY: On February 26, 2013, your Board received the Department’s report on the implementation of a shared laboratory services model with Napa-Solano-Yolo County Public Health Laboratory and approved Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Amendment No. 6 establishing the Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory effective July 1, 2013.

The Department is returning to your Board with a request to execute a revised JPA. Despite each County’s Public Health leadership and respective counsels approving the language of the JPA Amendment signed by your Board, our partners in Solano, Napa, and Yolo counties have subsequently requested minor changes to the agreement. As the JPA is a multi-year agreement, the member counties request the changes be made now.

Please note that the JPA your Board signed on February 26, 2013 was not signed by any other member county. There is no need to amend or repeal that document as it was never fully executed.

The revised JPA now before your Board contains changes intended to correct minor oversights in the previous version of the JPA and to improve the clarity of the language. The changes, which do not negatively impact Marin and are not substantive from our perspective, include:

- Revising the respective Counties’ Agreement numbers.
- Incorporating the use of the abbreviation “NSYMCPhl” for Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory.
- Simplifying the language regarding how Marin’s contribution will be calculated.
Increasing the FY 13/14 contributions for Napa and Yolo counties to reflect an increase equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as required under the terms of the current JPA.

Updating addresses and names of signatories as needed.

The key elements of the JPA as described in the Department's report and previously approved by your Board on February 26th remain the same:

- Marin is a “co-director” of the lab and has an equal and ongoing role in its governance.
- Solano County is responsible for the costs of providing and maintaining the laboratory facility, equipment, and support services such as billing and the specimen courier.
- Solano County is adding 3.50 FTE in laboratory staffing to accommodate Marin testing volume.
- Marin’s estimated FY 13/14 contribution of $313,635 is based upon $421,322 for staff and supplies needed to process Marin’s volume of tests less the revenue generated for those tests and will be subject to an increase equal to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) in years 2 and 3 of the JPA.
- Each partner county may establish a policy or fee schedule that collects fees lower than that of the Napa-Solano-Yolo-Marin County Public Health Laboratory fee schedule.
- The Department’s annual savings realized by joining this regional public health laboratory is $327,910.

The Department remains on track to complete the transition for the provision of public health laboratory services from its San Rafael location to the regional Public Health Laboratory at the end of June.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** As mentioned in our report on February 26, 2013, the Department is working with the CAO to make the necessary budget adjustments related to joining the regional public health laboratory during the FY 13/14 baseline budget process. These budget adjustments in the Department’s Communicable Disease/Public Health Lab Funds Center result in an annual savings of $327,910 and are consistent with the proposed FY 13/14 budget. The Department, in consultation with your Board, proposes to utilize the budget savings to address unmet needs in the Department that will result in no impact to net County cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.
Director

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