

November 30, 2010

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

**SUBJECT: Review staff recommendations and consider Resolution extending the Health Council's sunset date to August 14, 2014**

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Review staff recommendations and consider Resolution extending the Health Council's sunset date to August 14, 2014

**SUMMARY:** On July 27, 2010, your Board elected not to extend the August 15, 2010 sunset date of the Health Council to August 14, 2014 as it did for several other discretionary boards and commissions. Subsequently on August 10, 2010 your Board approved a short-term extension of the sunset date for six months, until January 15, 2011, so the Department could evaluate a number of options and return to your Board with recommendations about the Health Council's future structure, role, and responsibilities. The sunset extension also enabled the Health Council to continue to formally meet, participate in this evaluation, and help inform the Department's recommendation to your Board.

The Department's assessment revealed:

- The Health Council seeks to be responsive to your Board but perhaps could do so more effectively.
- Generally, the Health Council discusses items that were presented or discussed directly with the Board of Supervisors, including the recent letter regarding Smart Meters.
- The members of the Health Council are concerned with a wide range of health issues, several of which are not directly under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Services, but all of which are of interest to persons concerned with health and environmental health issues, including the members of the Board of Supervisors.
- The Department has a wide variety of forums (14 currently) that provide advice and comment to the Department; and the Department has frequently set up ad hoc advisory bodies as the issues require, including an advisory body on the Abaris safety net report; a group that met to discuss Adult Day Health Care; and others.

The Department proposes the following recommendations and seeks your Board's direction. These recommendations are supported by the current members of the Health Council.

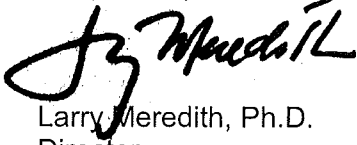
1. The Health Council should remain as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and *not* be established as an advisory body to the Department.
2. The Health Council should undergo "refresher" counsel and training on its role and the Board's expectations.

3. The Health Council's purview should include environmental health as well as public health issues and include representatives of those departments as necessary.
4. The Health Council should remain as a 16 member Board, with no more than half providers, but revise its bylaws to allow for nominees proposed by the Department as well as by the Council, subject to Board confirmation and selection.
5. The Health Council's sunset date should be extended to August 14, 2014, consistent with your Board's other discretionary Boards and commissions.

**FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Meredith". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "L" and "M".

Larry Meredith, Ph.D.  
Director