



# Ventura County **SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**Jim Fryhoff** - Sheriff | **John Reilly** - Undersheriff  
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA 93009 | 805.654.2385 | VenturaSheriff.org

November 7, 2023

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 S. Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**Subjects:**     **Ratification of the Sheriff's Office's Application to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP), US Department of Justice for the BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program; Ratification of the Sheriff's Office's Acceptance of Grant Funds from OJP in the Amount of \$250,000 for BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program, Effective October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. (RECOMMENDATION # 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.)**

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Ratify the Sheriff's Office's application to the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program grant. (Exhibit 1)
2. Ratify the Sheriff's acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$250,000 from the OJP for the BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program, subject to the attached special conditions. (Exhibit 2)
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller to process the necessary accounting transactions to adjust the following appropriations and unanticipated revenue in FY24 adopted budget (recommendation requires 4/5ths vote):

**FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program**

INCREASE	2500-2544 Intergovernmental Revenue	\$ 250,000
INCREASE	2500-2544 Salaries and Benefits	\$ 250,000

**Fiscal / Mandates Impact:**

Mandatory: No  
 Source of Funding: U.S. Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice (DOJ)  
 Funding Match Required: None  
 Impact on Other Departments: No additional impact

Summary of Revenue/Total Costs	<u>FY 2023/24</u>	<u>FY 2024/25</u>
Revenue:	\$ 0	\$ 250,000
Costs:		
Direct Costs	\$ 0	\$ 250,000
Indirect – Department	\$ 0	\$ 0
Indirect County Cap	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
Net County Costs Including Indirect	\$ 0	\$ 0
Recovered Indirect Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0

**Current Fiscal Year Budget Projections:**

<b>FY 2023-24 Budget Projection for Sheriff’s Police Services - Division 2500</b>				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	\$219,103,326	\$ 219,103,326	\$ 219,103,326	0
Revenue	\$ 117,414,194	\$ 117,414,194	\$ 117,414,194	0
Net Cost	\$ 101,689,132	\$ 101,689,132	\$ 101,689,132	0

**Reason for Ratification:**

We were unable to obtain your Board’s approval of the Sheriff’s application and acceptance of grant funds for the BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement Program due to a short application timeline and acceptance period from OJP and the lengthy approval process. The County Executive Office was notified and gave approval to submit the application on April 13, 2023. The application was submitted prior to the deadline. The application is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

**Discussion:**

The DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction (CEBR) Program is administered by the DOJ, a component of the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The purpose of this grant is to provide funding for qualifying forensic laboratories to increase capacity and improve backlogs in DNA services. The

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best means to accomplish this is to hire and train individuals in the technical skills necessary to be qualifying scientists. It is anticipated that, because of the increase in trained forensic staff, each DNA laboratory will become more effective and efficient in meeting the needs of the criminal justice system. The overall objective of this grant is to improve DNA analysis capacity and to reduce the number of backlogged DNA cases.

We request that your Board ratify the Sheriff's application to the BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program (Exhibit 1) and acceptance of the grant funds, subject to the attached special conditions (Exhibit 2).

The grant funds of \$250,000 will be used to fund two existing fixed-term positions. The grant term is from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2025. We anticipate additional DNA backlog grants to continue funding these positions in the future. No funding match is required of participating agencies.

The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Human Resources have reviewed this Board letter. Please contact Assistant Sheriff Victor Fazio at 805-494-8276, if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



James Fryhoff  
Sheriff

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Application for BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program

Exhibit 2 – BJA FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program Award Letter and Special Conditions