



VENTURA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura CA 93009 | 805.654.2380 | VenturaSheriff.org

Bill Ayub
Sheriff

Monica McGrath
Undersheriff

July 23, 2019

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

Subject: **Ratification of the Sheriff's Applications to the National Institute of Justice for the FY19 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program and FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program**

Recommendations:

It is recommended that your Board:

1. Ratify the Sheriff's application to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) for the FY19 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program grant.
2. Ratify the Sheriff's application to the NIJ for the FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program grant.

Fiscal / Mandates Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with recommended actions. If the grants are awarded, the Sheriff's Office will return to your Board for approval to accept the grants and to request the budgetary modifications that are necessary.

Reason for Ratification:

We were unable to obtain your Board's approval of the Sheriff's applications for the FY19 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program grant and the FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program grant due to short application timelines from NIJ. The County Executive Office was notified and gave approval to submit the applications. The applications are attached hereto as Exhibits 1 and 2.

Discussion:

FY19 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program

The NIJ DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program grant is administered by the NIJ, 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 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.

On February 27, 2018, your Board authorized and adopted a resolution establishing a fixed-term Forensic Scientist II position that had previously been authorized by your Board but was set to expire on April 1, 2018. The new position is authorized through March 31, 2021. The grant funds of \$280,806 for FY19/20 will be used to fund that fixed-term position and some equipment with a small portion reserved for training. The grant term is from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. We anticipate additional DNA backlog grants to continue funding this position in the future. No funding match is required of participating agencies.

FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program

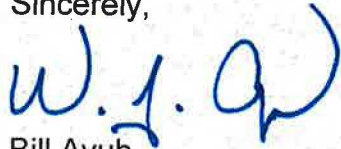
The NIJ Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program grant also is administered by the NIJ. Goals of the Paul Coverdell program are to reduce the turn-around time and backlogs in other areas (besides DNA) of forensic science. If awarded, the federal funds of \$194,276 from the 2019-2020 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program will be designated for funding overtime for backlog reduction. The grant term is from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. No funding match is required of participating agencies.

As awarded, we will return to your Board for authorization to accept each grant, related budget adjustments and other appropriate Board actions.

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The Offices of the County Executive, County Counsel, and Auditor-Controller have reviewed this Board letter. Please contact Undersheriff Monica McGrath at 654-2383, if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. I. Ayub", written over the printed name.

Bill Ayub
Sheriff

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Application for FY19 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program Grant
Exhibit 2 – Application for FY19 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program