

July 26, 2022

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office (VCMEO) Submission of an Application and Acceptance of Award for the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program Grant in the Amount of \$57,622; Authorization for the VCMEO Medical Examiner or Designee to Sign the Grant Agreement, Subject to County Counsel Review and Approval; and Authorization for the Auditor-Controller to Process the Necessary Accounting Transactions to Adjust Appropriations and Unanticipated Revenue. (RECOMMENDATION No. 3 REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE.)

RECOMMENDATION

1. That your Board ratify the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office (VCMEO) submission of an application and acceptance of award (Exhibit 1) for the CalOES Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program grant in the amount of \$57,622, effective April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
2. That your Board authorize the VCMEO Medical Examiner or designee to sign the grant agreement, subject to review and approval of County Counsel.
3. That your Board authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to process the necessary budgetary transactions to adjust appropriations and unanticipated revenue as follows (requires 4/5ths vote):

INCREASE	2880	Salaries and Employees Benefits	\$	57,622
INCREASE	2880	Intergovernmental Revenues	\$	57,622

Fiscal/Mandates Impact:

Mandatory:	No
Source of Funding:	The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Funding Match Required: None
 Impact on Other Departments: Minimal

<u>Summary of Revenues and Costs:</u>		<u>FY 2022-23</u>	<u>FY 2023-24</u>
Revenues:		\$57,622	\$0
Costs:			
Direct		\$57,622	\$0
Indirect-Dept		\$0	\$0
Indirect-County CAP		\$0	\$0
Total Cost		<u>\$57,622</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Net County Cost		\$0	\$0
Recovered Indirect Costs		\$0	\$0

FY 2022-23 Budget Projection for Medical Examiner's Office (MEO)-Division/Unit 2880				
	Adopted Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Budget	Estimated Savings/ (Cost)
Appropriations	\$4,303,151	\$4,303,151	\$4,303,151	\$0
Revenue	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$175,000	\$0
Net Cost	\$4,128,151	\$4,128,151	\$4,128,151	\$0

REASON FOR RATIFICATION

Prior to applying for and accepting this award, Board approval was not obtained, due to the estimated amount of the award. However, when working to recruit for this new position, it was determined that your Board's approval is required.

DISCUSSION

The Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office provides medicolegal death investigation in a jurisdiction comprised of approximately 860,000 lives. The VCMEO is seeking grant funding to further raise the standard of medicolegal death investigation within the county.

Through CalOES and the Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Program has provided a grant opportunity to further the DOJ's mission by providing states and units of local government with tools needed to meet objectives of improving quality and timeliness of services and training and employing personnel to eliminate backlogs. This program seeks to improve forensic science and medical examiner/coroner services operated by county government.

The VCMEO will use the funds to help support the cost of a medical examiner forensic intern who will work alongside forensic pathologists, forensic pathology technicians, medicolegal death investigators and Administration gaining a well-rounded experience. In the past two years, the office not only experienced a pandemic, but is also experiencing an opioid epidemic. The VCMEO has had record breaking numbers in overall investigations, examinations, and overdose deaths. The new intern will help bolster our front line to help combat and support the crisis' we face today. With only approximately 500 forensic pathologists nationwide, forensic internships may help gain interest for individuals that may not have the opportunity to experience the medical examiner/coroner world up close.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel. If you have any questions regarding this item, please contact Christopher Young, M.D. at (805) 641-4400.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris Young M.D.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

CHRISTOPHER R. YOUNG, M.D.
Chief Medical Examiner

Exhibit 1: Award Letter CalOES