

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Public Health



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HHS03 022409


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DATE: February 24, 2009

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM:   
Kim Roberts  
SCVHHS - Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Agreement with California Department of Public Health for Viral Load Testing

### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Approve Agreement with California Department of Public Health relating to providing analysis of Viral Load Test specimens in an amount not to exceed \$495,000 for period July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action. Based on the number of projected Viral Load tests for FY09, revenue and expenses for the Viral Load testing program are already included in the Public Health Department's FY09 budget.

### **CONTRACT HISTORY**

In 1998, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), formerly the California Department of Health Services, began contracting with Santa Clara County for the provision of HIV Viral Load Testing for the County's uninsured, low income population infected with HIV. When eligibility requirements are satisfied, CDPH funding is provided for HIV Viral Load tests sent through the Public Health Laboratory when appropriate data is submitted to the State.

In May 2008, the Board approved an amendment to the most recent expired agreement with CDPH for analysis of viral load test specimens so as to increase the available funding for services by \$60,000 for the final year of the agreement, which ended June 30, 2008.

The new Agreement was received in November 2008. Staffing vacancies in the Public Health Laboratory prevented submission to the Board before this time.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Approval of the recommended action will enable the Public Health Department to execute the Viral Load agreement with the California Department of Public Health, thus allowing PH Laboratory to invoice CDPH for analysis of up to 1,650 Viral Load Test specimens provided by residents who meet the eligibility requirements for each year of the agreement.

### **BACKGROUND**

HIV Viral Load Testing is an important marker in the evaluation and treatment of persons with HIV/AIDS and has become part of the standard of care for HIV-infected persons. The viral load consists of a blood test that measures the amount of HIV in a person's blood. The viral load is then used to determine the status of the immune system as well as the effectiveness of treatment. HIV Viral Load Tests are ordered through the County's PACE Clinic (Partners in AIDS Care and Education) and the Corrections Medical Unit at both the Main Jail and Elmwood facilities.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

Failure to approve the recommended actions may impact the Public Health Department's ability to invoice CDPH for additional tests.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

Return seven (7) executed agreements (as required by CDPH) to SCVHHS Administration.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

- CDPH Agreement for Viral Load Testing FYs 2009-2011