

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 08, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

**SUBJECT: SHERIFF– REQUEST FOR SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENTS
FOR GENETIC GENEALOGY TECHNOLOGY, VALIDATION
SERVICES, AND INSTRUMENT SUPPORT FROM VEROGEN
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The ability for the San Diego County Sheriff's Office Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) to perform Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis is vital to the County of San Diego because it leads to the identification of individuals who may be involved in committing crimes and plays a key role in exonerating the wrongly accused. Moreover, future offenses are prevented by apprehending perpetrators before they can commit further crimes. The Crime Lab proposes to utilize the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Fiscal Year 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant to purchase and validate Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology, along with instrument support services, for use in DNA analysis and to generate Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) profiles.

The Crime Lab's Forensic Biology Section has approximately 40 John/Jane Doe cases that need NGS technology. Taking advantage of the increased sensitivity of NGS will allow the DNA Section to get superior results from cases involving unidentified decedents, which are CODIS eligible. The Forensic Biology Section estimates there are over 300 unsolved sexual assault cases since 2018 which may also benefit from NGS, and the Sheriff's Cold Case Homicide Team has identified 25 cases to date that could benefit from NGS. The Forensic Biology Section has a case backlog and has opted to outsource all validations for new technology when possible. By using VEROGEN, Sheriff's staff will be able to perform the full validation for both kits, making VEROGEN a cost-effective alternative to using the DNA analyst's time.

Today's request is for the Board of Supervisors to approve a single source procurement based on precluded competition because of the existence of patent rights, copyrights, secret processes, control of the basic raw material(s) or similar circumstances, and no equivalent good or service is available. VEROGEN is the only vendor to offer ForenSeq Kintelligence® and the MainstAY® typing kit which is the sole CODIS approved DNA analysis kit available for NGS technology and is the sole vendor capable of establishing performance standards necessary for forensic analysis through validation and providing ongoing instrument support.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SHERIFF

In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting, to enter into negotiations with VEROGEN and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract to purchase and validate Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology from VEROGEN, along with instrument support services for up to two years, for use in Deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) analysis and generation of Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) profiles, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to requirements and funding, subject to the approval of the Sheriff.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Identification of people convicted of crimes is crucial in the criminal justice process to deliver accountability and bring justice and healing to victims, their families, and the wrongfully accused. Bringing Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technology into the Crime Lab is critical for approximately 30 law enforcement and criminal justice agencies to ensure a fair and equitable justice system in both the defense and prosecution of crimes. The single source availability of the requested technology and the specialized need for validation and support services ensures the highest quality service is provided to the County and other criminal justice agencies.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's request to approve a single source contract with VEROGEN supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal of providing just and equitable access for victims of crimes and those who may have been wrongfully accused of a crime. Considering the regional support and the Regional Crime Laboratory's forensic science services provided to law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in San Diego County, it is necessary to obtain equipment that ensures a standardized and validated process.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2024–25 Operational Plan for the Sheriff's Office. If approved, this request will result in estimated one-time costs of \$760,000. The funding source is the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, Fiscal Year 2024 Byrne Discretionary Community Project Grant. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

ABSENT: Desmond, (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter



APRIL 08, 2025