

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2

SUBJECT: SHERIFF - REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO ISSUE A COMPETITIVE SOLICITATION FOR DENTAL SERVICES AT DETENTION FACILITIES (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

The San Diego Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office) provides comprehensive health care services, including dental care, to incarcerated persons in custody at the Sheriff's detention facilities as required by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. As the incarcerated population needs have changed in complexity, the current dental service model is no longer sufficient to meet demand for timely, restorative, and specialty care. In particular, the absence of on-site or off-site contracted endodontic services, the specialty of treating conditions such as tooth pain, pulp inflammation and infections caused deep decay, trauma or repeated dental procedures, has resulted in preventable dental emergencies, tooth loss, and increased off-site transports that impact facility operations and patient outcomes. In recent years, the Sheriff's Office has enhanced its level of medical and mental health care services to meet the dynamic needs of the populations served and legal obligations, therefore overall medical services have increased to address complex diagnoses and the fundamental shift of health service delivery from ad-hoc acute care services in an ambulatory setting to comprehensive, preventive, and chronic care services in a structured institutional environment.

To address these trends, the Sheriff's Office is seeking to expand the existing onsite patient access to dental health care and to enhance care by including specialty endodontic care. This enhancement would optimize oral health outcomes for the patient population by providing access to tooth restorative services for higher acuity cases and help to preserve natural teeth. The endodontic specialists will be made available to the patient population through contracted providers on-site and through specialty service referrals to providers in the community for more complex cases. Providing these services will improve the overall oral health and well-being of the patient population. The proposed solicitation would expand access to on-site dental care, add specialty endodontic treatment for higher-acuity cases, and strengthen the overall continuum of oral health services available to individuals in custody. These improvements support better health outcomes, reduce operational and legal risk, and align with Medi-Cal reimbursement opportunities under CalAIM for eligible individuals.

Today's action requests the Board of Supervisors to authorize a competitive solicitation for dental services for the incarcerated population in the Sheriff's Office's custody for one year, with four option years, and a six-month extension if needed and to amend the contract as required to reflect changes to services and funding allocations, subject to the approval of the Sheriff's Office.

RECOMMENDATION

SHERIFF

In accordance with Section 401, Article XXIII of the County Administrative Code, authorize the Director of the Department of Purchasing and Contracting to issue a competitive solicitation for dental services for the incarcerated population in the Sheriff's Office's custody, and upon successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for an initial term of one year, with four one-year option periods, and an additional six-month extension, if needed, and to amend

the contract as needed to reflect changes to service requirements and funding, subject to approval of the San Diego Sheriff's Office.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Healthy People 2030 define a health disparity as a “particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage.” Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health care based on their racial or ethnic group and other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion. This request for Medi-Cal-enrolled dental service provider builds greater health equity for our incarcerated population. It gives incarcerated people access to high quality and affordable dental services while in custody, providing them with more adequate medical care. The San Diego Sheriff's Office is dedicated to advancing health equity outcomes for incarcerated persons and having an on-site dental provider allows timely and effective clinical engagement.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Most individuals in the carceral environment have experienced, or continue to experience, notable health disparities. Having continued onsite dental care and an on-site endodontic provider supports the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goal to provide just and equitable access. Advancing health care equity outcomes mean ensuring that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible and has ready access to medical and behavioral care with proximity to clinical services.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the San Diego Sheriff's Office (Sheriff's Office). If approved, the estimated annual cost for the initial year of the contract is \$3,835,207 in Fiscal Year 2026-27. The funding source is General Purpose Revenue. Funds for the option year costs will be included in future years Operational Plans for the Sheriff's Office if the option years are exercised. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

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

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

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