

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 3

**SUBJECT: SHERIFF - APPROVAL OF A GOVERNING BODY RESOLUTION TO
AUTHORIZE THE APPLICATION FOR AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE
COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The Sheriff's Office Regional Crime Laboratory (Crime Lab) provides forensic services to over thirty local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The Crime Lab receives funding from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, and the Bureau of Justice Assistance through the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) also has additional grant opportunities such as the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant which provides funding to eligible California forensic science crime laboratories, medical examiners' offices, and coroners' offices identified by the California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors (CACLD). Funding is typically provided to acquire and maintain accreditation, reduce backlogs, and improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science services.

An updated Board of Supervisors (Board) resolution is being requested by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services providing for revised authority for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant to the Sheriff and the addition of staff directly involved in the grant process that have increased or changed since the last Board approval in 2013.

Today's action requests authorization from the Board for the Sheriff to apply for and accept grant funding from Cal OES, including reviewing and executing all related documents for the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Grant. The grant funding allows the Crime Lab to meet professional and accreditation standards while creating a positive financial impact on the Sheriff's Office. It also requests the waiver of Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts —Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery for mandatory training to maintain accreditation status, equipment purchases utilizing the most up to date technology in forensic science and reduce backlog on cases. By covering the costs of continuing education, such as travel, lodging, and registration the grant prevents these expenses from burdening the Crime Lab's operational budget. Utilizing operation funds for the costs of continuing education including travel and registration fees could result in the Crime Lab being out of compliance for mandatory training or cutting other costs utilized on a regular basis for equipment and supplies. This request would provide the subgrantees an efficient path to applying and accepting the grant, authorize changes through the preauthorization process to prevent missing deadlines, prepare budget modifications, and comply with quick turnaround times set by CalOES. Timelines for these requests often have a quick turn around and this authorization would allow for a faster processing timeline.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SHERIFF

1. Authorize the Sheriff to apply for and accept grant funding from California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) for the California Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant in current and subsequent fiscal years, if there are no material changes to the grant terms and funding levels.
2. Authorize the Sheriff and Sheriff's designees to review and execute all required Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant and related documents in current and subsequent fiscal years, including any agreements, annual extensions, amendments, and/or revisions thereof that do not materially impact or alter the services or funding levels.
3. Adopt a resolution entitled A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT.
4. Waive Board Policy B-29, Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts – Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery, which requires full cost recovery for grants, as this grant program does not recover full cost.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The California Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant to be used for training, assisting, and supporting forensic laboratory staff, enhances the delivery of forensic science services within the county of San Diego. This contributes to a more effective and equitable justice system. By providing funding for resources, such as improved training, the program helps ensure that forensic analysis is conducted accurately and efficiently, which can contribute to fairer outcomes in the criminal justice system.

Training also helps address broader issues that may disproportionately affect minority communities by improving the scientific rigor and standardization of forensic techniques, which helps reduce the impact of implicit or explicit biases that could influence forensic analyses.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program furthers the Sustainability goals of the County by helping the Sheriff's Office advance training in the forensic science field, and by adding focus to improving the quality and timeliness of services. The grant aids in training forensic laboratory personnel, thus helping ensure that practitioners are knowledgeable and skilled, which in turn benefits the quality of forensic science services.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's request to apply for and accept grant funds from the Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant Program in future fiscal years. There are no matching funds required. Current year funds from this grant are approximately \$75,750. Appropriations and revenues in subsequent years will be included in future Operational Plans. 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 Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Resolution No. 25-097 entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO RELATING TO THE PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

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