

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 2**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE SINGLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT OF HAMILTON MICROLAB SERIES MANUFACTURER-SPECIFIC INSTRUMENTATION, MAINTENANCE, CONSUMABLES, AND SUPPLIES FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides high-quality laboratory services to protect the health of the community and prevent the spread of disease. PHL has been a leader in infectious disease control locally, in California, and across the nation by analyzing clinical and environmental samples through surveillance, assessment, and assurance activities. In addition, PHL supports regional preparedness and response to communicable disease events, outbreaks, and emerging infectious disease threats.

On October 25, 2022 (11), the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the establishment of appropriations for design and pre-construction services for a new PHL. The new facility will be larger than the previous PHL and will also be a Biosafety Level 2 and 3 reference laboratory, as the County serves as an approved Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Select Agent Laboratory for San Diego and Imperial Counties. PHL is also the designated location for the federal BioWatch program for the detection of bioterrorism agents in San Diego County. This new expanded PHL will allow for enhanced and expanded testing services and capabilities. The use of specialized laboratory equipment is essential to ensure this expansion of testing while maintaining and increasing testing proficiency and accuracy.

Today's actions request the Board authorize a single source contract with Hamilton Company for their Microlab series manufacturer-specific specialized instrumentation, maintenance, consumables, and supplies to sustain critical services and enhance PHL.

Today's actions support the County vision of a just, sustainable, and resilient future for all, specifically those communities and populations in San Diego County that have been historically left behind, as well as our ongoing commitment to the regional *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities. This will be accomplished by re-enforcing PHL's ability to safeguard and improve the health and well-being of San Diego County residents through enhanced and increased testing, prevention, and intervention to interrupt transmission of disease while maintaining good fiscal management.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. In accordance with Board Policy A-87, Competitive Procurement, approve and authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to enter into negotiations with Hamilton Company, and subject to successful negotiations and determination of a fair and reasonable price, award a contract for Hamilton Microlab series manufacturer-specific instrumentation, consumables and ongoing maintenance and repairs for the life of the equipment, for an Initial Term of up to one year, with four one-year Options, and up to an additional six months, if

needed, and to amend the contract as needed to reflect changes to services or funding allocations, subject to the availability of funds and the approval of the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency.

2. Authorize the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health and Human Services Agency, or designee, to apply for additional funding opportunity announcements, if available, that would support the Public Health Laboratory efforts.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

San Diego County has one of the busiest border crossings in the United States and is home to a diverse population including military and tribal communities. Reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have highlighted disparities among populations impacted by diseases such as HIV, viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infection, tuberculosis, and COVID-19. Disparities in ethnicity have shown to be linked to behavioral risk factors, environmental exposures, social determinants of health, and access to accurate and timely testing. To protect the health and well-being of all residents, the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency, Public Health Laboratory (PHL) provides diagnostic testing that helps to diagnose diseases among the public, including but not limited to, tuberculosis, measles, mumps, norovirus, and malaria. Additionally, insights from testing results and patient demographics, available through the laboratory information management system, enables PHL to record and monitor health disparities and inequities across a wide range of diseases. PHL works in conjunction with public health clinics, local hospitals and healthcare providers, and the County Department of Environmental Health and Quality to analyze clinical and environmental samples to detect and identify bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens, perform rapid diagnostic testing, and characterize pathogens.

A fully functioning PHL that implements the core activities of surveillance, assessment, and assurance, is essential to provide the best health outcomes for our communities. Thus, PHL is continuously tracking advancements in specialized laboratory and testing equipment to ensure the most efficient and effective instrumentation is a priority. The procurement of advanced instrumentation will lead to improved testing capabilities, reduced response times, and more efficient and effective services to interrupt the transmission of disease and protect all San Diego County residents, especially the most vulnerable.

### **SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Today's actions support the County of San Diego (County) Sustainability Goal #3 to transition to a green, carbon-free economy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and Sustainability Goal #4 - to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region, with a focus on collaborating with community partners and advocating for environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately impacted. The County Public Health Laboratory continuously increases capacity and testing services aimed at detecting and preventing illnesses by using the most effective and efficient equipment available. Testing and identification will improve the overall health of communities, reduce the demand for associated care services, while increasing the effectiveness of care providers and lowering operating costs of facilities, thus reducing greenhouse gas emissions and waste generated within the care sector. Since climate change and air pollution are direct threats to human health, the reduction of pollution is also considered a preventative healthcare measure.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Operational Plan of the Health and Human Services Agency. If approved, this request will result in estimated costs and revenue of \$300,000 in FY 2024-25 for purchase of one-time equipment and lab supplies and estimated costs and revenue of \$50,000 in FY 2025-26 for ongoing lab supplies and maintenance of the equipment. Funds for subsequent years will be incorporated into future operational plans. The funding sources are Enhancing Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection grant funds and existing Health Realignment. 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 Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Desmond, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

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

ABSENT: (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

