County of Santa Cruz

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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BOB LEE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

June 2,2005

Agenda: June 14,2005

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

AUTHORIZE THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PAJARO VALLEY PREVENTION AND STUDENT ASSISTANCE AGENCY APPLICATION TO THE OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES FOR GANG VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION FUNDS

Dear Members of the Board:

The District Attorney's Office has been invited to participate in an application submitted by the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Agency, Inc., to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) for the Gang Violence Suppression Multi-Component Program. Other participating agencies include the Probation Department, Watsonville Police Department, and the County Office of Education. A total of $1,785,000 funds will be awarded to counties statewide. The funds available for this project, which will be focused in the City of Watsonville and surrounding areas, are $392,000. The allocation for the District Attorney's Office will be $60,000 if the grant application is accepted. Awards will be granted for the period July 1,2005 through June 30, 2006.

The goal of the Gang Violence Suppression Multi-Component Program is to reduce the level of gang violence in communities and divert potentially dangerous gang activity into positive and constructive behavior. The program strives to maintain communication between law enforcement agencies, prosecutor's offices, probation departments, community-based agencies, schools, the community, and family members of gang and potential gang members.

The knds allocated to the District Attorney's Office would augment fbnding for .33 FTE Assistant District Attorney who will be responsible for leading the vertical prosecution component of the program, with the goal of identifying and aggressively prosecuting gang leaders and other gang members who are charged with crimes involving violence or threats against witnesses, and to work with the other program components involved in gang intervention, supporting their efforts to empower the community and curb criminal activities of youth gangs.

Existing services have been identified to meet the 10% matching knds requirement for the program,

and there is no increase to net county cost associated with this grant application. The District Attorney's Office will return to your Board with the appropriate financial documents upon approval of the grant application by OES.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report; and

2. Authorize the District Attorney to participate in the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Agency's application for Gang Violence Suppression funds through the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Sincerely,

Bob Lee by (fn)

BOB LEE
District Attorney

RECOMMENDED:

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

BL:FN

cc: Watsonville Police Department
Probation
Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Agency
District Attorney