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County of Orange

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California

**Thomas G. Mauk**  
County Executive Officer

July 24, 2012

Honorable Thomas J. Borris  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Orange County Vector Control District: A Study in Little  
Known Services

Dear Judge Borris:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the County of Orange status update to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Health Care Agency and the Agricultural Commissioner. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Zink at (714) 834-7487 in the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Mauk  
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: 2012-13 Orange County Grand Jury

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ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MINUTE ORDER

July 24, 2012

Submitting Agency/Department: County Executive Office

Approve proposed response to FY 2011-12 Grand Jury Report "Orange County Vector Control District-A Study in Little Known Services" - All Districts

The following is action taken by the Board of Supervisors:

APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED [checked] OTHER [ ]

Unanimous [checked] (1) NGUYEN: Y (2) MOORLACH: Y (3) CAMPBELL: Y (4) NELSON: Y (5) BATES: Y

Vote Key: Y=Yes; N=No; A=Abstain; X=Excused; B.O.=Board Order

Documents accompanying this matter:

- [ ] Resolution(s)
[ ] Ordinances(s)
[ ] Contract(s)

Item No. 30

Special Notes:

Copies sent to:

CEO/Budget
Superior Court
Grand Jury

7/27/12



I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Minute Order adopted by the Board of Supervisors, Orange County, State of California. Susan Novak, Clerk of the Board.

By: [Signature] Deputy



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

ASR Control 12-000766

23 F1  
2012 JUL -9 PM 12:56

**MEETING DATE:** 07/24/12  
**LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION:** Board of Supervisors  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S):** All Districts  
**SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** County Executive Office (Approved)  
**DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S):** Michelle Zink (714) 834-7487  
 Margaret Cady (714) 834-4104

**SUBJECT:** Grand Jury Report: A Study in Little Known Services

<b>CEO CONCUR</b> Concur	<b>COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW</b> N/A	<b>CLERK OF THE BOARD</b> Discussion 3 Votes Board Majority
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**Budgeted:** N/A                      **Current Year Cost:** N/A                      **Annual Cost:** N/A  
**Staffing Impact:** No                      **# of Positions:**                      **Sole Source:** N/A  
**Current Fiscal Year Revenue:** N/A  
**Funding Source:** N/A

**Prior Board Action:** N/A

**RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):**

1. Approve proposed response to FY 2011-12 Grand Jury Report entitled "Orange County Vector Control District-A Study in Little Known Services."
2. Direct the Clerk of the Board to forward this ASR with exhibits to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court and the FY 2012-13 Orange County Grand Jury no later than August 14, 2012.

**SUMMARY:**

Approve proposed response to the FY 2011-12 Grand Jury Report entitled "Orange County Vector Control District-A Study in Little Known Services."

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

In May 2012 the Grand Jury released a report titled "Orange County Vector Control District-A Study in Little Known Services.". This report directed Findings and Recommendations to the Orange County Health Care Agency and the Agricultural Commissioner. Enclosed as Exhibit 2 is the response to these Findings and Recommendations.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

N/A

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

N/A

**EXHIBIT(S):**

1. Grand Jury Report
2. Response to Grand Jury Report
3. Transmittal Letter

**2011-2012 Grand Jury Report**  
**Orange County Vector Control District**  
**“A Study in Little Known Services”**  
**Health Care Agency/Agricultural Commissioner**  
**Responses to Findings and Recommendations**

**Responses to Findings F.2**

**F.2** The laboratories of the Agricultural Commissioner, Health Care Agency, and Vector Control have little inter-relationship with respect to their functions and specialized equipment. Little or no communication exists among the labs for sharing of disease information impacting the public. (R2)

*Response: Disagrees wholly with the finding.*

There is a history of joint cooperation and interaction between the three laboratories; however, the laboratories may benefit by exploring whether there is a potential for sharing additional information.

The three laboratories and their specialized functions (see below) are defined by separate State and Federal regulations:

- The Orange County Vector Control District (OCVCD) laboratory is charged with investigating insect and rodent transmitted diseases.
- The Orange County Public Health Laboratory (OCPHL) and Water Quality laboratory (programs of the Orange County Health Care Agency [HCA]) are charged with investigating human infectious diseases as follows:
  - OCPHL - provides specialized, high quality laboratory testing for detection and control of infectious and environmental diseases including agents of Bioterrorism.
  - Water Quality Laboratory - conducts drinking and recreational water testing.
- The Agricultural Commission laboratory of OC Public Works is charged with investigating plant and agricultural animal diseases.

The type and scope of laboratory procedures performed in the three laboratories are quite different. The educational and job experience requirements for professional staff to work in each of these laboratories are unique, and required State certifications are not reciprocal.

The interaction between the Agricultural Commissioner laboratory and the OCVCD laboratory, and between the Agricultural Commissioner laboratory and the OCPHL has generally been limited to when there was a specific need and could vary in frequency during any time period. There has always been cooperation between the three laboratories to work jointly or assist each other when a need arises.

Currently the Agricultural Commissioner laboratory does not share any program responsibilities with the Vector Control District that would require a regular laboratory

meeting. Several years ago, when the Red Imported Fire Ant was introduced into Orange County, Agricultural Commissioner laboratory staff and OCVCD laboratory staff would meet once a month or once a quarter to discuss program responsibilities. Now that the program has become routine, it is only necessary to meet or communicate on an as needed basis.

OCVCD and HCA have maintained effective communications for many years. Most of this coordination is led by the Epidemiology and Assessment program (Epidemiology) within HCA's Public Health Services and centers on preventing and controlling human disease. Physicians, clinical laboratories, and hospitals are required by State law to report every human case of vector-borne disease (such as West Nile Virus, typhus, or Lyme disease) for cases identified or reported in Orange County to HCA's Public Health Services. Epidemiology contacts OCVCD to discuss the circumstances of each case and to develop a collaborative plan to investigate potential sources of vector-borne disease to mitigate further transmission. As a result of these discussions, OCVCD conducts targeted field investigations at sites of potential exposure.

Epidemiology, OCPHL, and OCVCD also conduct regularly scheduled West Nile Virus meetings, from April through October, where programs share summaries of data collected and coordinate future plans. These meetings frequently center on West Nile, as it is the most prominent cause of severe vector-borne human disease seen currently, but typhus, Lyme disease, or any emerging vector-borne pathogens are discussed as well. OCVCD consistently shares their surveillance data with Epidemiology to allow for an effective public health response. The OCPHL also reports all of its laboratory results of public health significance to the Epidemiology Program.

## **Responses to Recommendation R.2**

- R.2** OCVCD should take the lead in forming a coalition with the Agricultural Commissioners Agency and the Health Care Agency to explore sharing information.

***Response: The recommendation has been implemented.***

In May 2012, the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner met with the District Manager of the Orange County Vector Control District to discuss potential information-sharing opportunities between the laboratories of the three organizations. It was agreed that scheduling a meeting between the managers of the laboratories would be an excellent first step to forming a coalition.

As of this date, the District Manager of OCVCD is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the operating managers of the respective laboratories of HCA, OCVCD, and the Agricultural Commissioner in order to establish more formal lines of regular communication between the three laboratories.

The Agricultural Commissioner and HCA will continue to be available to the Orange County Vector Control District as the coalition is formed.