



Agenda Date: 6/27/2006
Agenda Placement: 600

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office

REPORT BY: Britt Ferguson, Assistant County Executive Officer, 253-4406

SUBJECT: Ratification of the Previous Transfer of Environmental Health Functions from the Public Health Department to the Department of Environmental Management; Designation of the Director of Environmental Health

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer requests adoption of a resolution ratifying all previous transfers of environmental health and sanitation functions and animal control services and powers to the Department of Environmental Management and designating the Assistant Director of Environmental Management as the Director of Environmental Health.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1984 the Board of Supervisors authorized the transfer of certain environmental health and animal control functions from the Department of Public Health to a new Department of Environmental Health. Subsequently, the Department was given additional duties and its name was changed to Department of Environmental Management. State law requires that environmental health services be directly supervised by a director of environmental health who is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Historically, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management has served as the Director of Environmental Health.

The Board is now considering appointing a new Director of Environmental Management (only the second person to hold that position). As part of this appointment, staff recommends the designation of the Assistant Director position as the Director of Environmental Health. This will allow the creation of an optimum management structure for what is now a larger and more complex department, including appointing a non-sanitarian as the Director of Environmental Management. Consequently, the resolution being proposed would:

1. Affirm that all programs previously transferred from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Environmental Management will continue to be administered by the Department of Environmental Management; and
2. Provide that the Assistant Director of Environmental Management will serve as Director of Environmental Health, with the responsibility of carrying out the duties of that position as established by State law.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: General Rule. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore CEQA is not applicable. [See Guidelines For the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, 14 CCR 15061(b)(3)].

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The California Health and Safety Code allows environmental health programs that are normally the responsibility of the County Health Department to be transferred to and administered by a comprehensive environmental management agency. On June 5, 1984, your Board approved Resolution No. 84-41 which authorized the transfer of environmental health and animal control functions from the County Department of Public Health to a new Department of Environmental Health. As required by State law, this transfer was approved by the State Health Services Department. Later, the name of this Department was changed to the Department of Environmental Management and the Department took on certain other duties, including functions not considered to be environmental health functions under State law.

State law requires that "environmental health and sanitation services" be directly supervised by a "Director of Environmental Health," who is certified as a Registered Environmental Health Specialist. Historically, the Director of the Department of Environmental Management has also served as the Director of Environmental Health. There is no legal requirement that the Director of Environmental Management serve as the Director of Environmental Health, and in some other counties a subordinate position in the Environmental Management Department is designated as Director of Environmental Health.

The Board is now considering appointing a new Director of Environmental Management (only the second person to hold that position). As part of this appointment, staff recommends the designation of the Assistant Director position as the Director of Environmental Health. This will allow the creation of an optimum management structure for what is now a larger and more complex department, including appointing a non-sanitarian as the Director of Environmental Management. Consequently, the resolution being proposed would:

1. Affirm that all programs previously transferred from the Department of Public Health to the Department of Environmental Management will continue to be administered by the Department of Environmental Management; and
2. Provide that the Assistant Director of Environmental Management will serve as Director of environmental health, with the responsibility of carrying out the duties of that position as established by State law.

The County Health Officer agrees with and supports this recommendation.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Maiko Klieman