



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**
2967 THOUSAND OAKS BLVD., THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91362

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April 5, 2011

Board of Supervisors
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Allocation of Tobacco Settlement Program Revenue to Westminster Free Clinic and Amendments to Proposed Tobacco Settlement Program Ordinance and Bylaws of the Tobacco Settlement Advisory Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Direct the CEO, in a form approved by County Counsel, to contract with the Westminster Free Clinic to provide services in the amount of \$150,000 per year for the next three year period using Tobacco Settlement Program Revenues.
2. Amend Section 3 of the proposed Tobacco Settlement Program Ordinance to increase the amount of minimum grant funds to \$350,000, read the amended ordinance in title only and waive further reading of the ordinance, and continue the item to the next scheduled regular meeting for final adoption.

DISCUSSION:

On March 22, 2011, the proposed Ordinance was introduced and continued to April 5, 2011 for final adoption. Key highlights of the proposed Ordinance are summarized as follows:

- Under the Program, a new, streamlined advisory committee will make recommendations on uses for a portion of the funds received by the County of Ventura as its share of the National Tobacco Settlement, through the Master Settlement Agreement ("MSA").
- A minimum grant funds of \$300,000 per year for community-based organizations to augment health care services, and provides for formula-based program allocations if MSA funds exceed \$7,600,000 per year.

- The County Executive Office provides oversight program management and administration for the Program. Revenue trends and program effectiveness will be formally reviewed every three fiscal years.

Westminster Free Clinic is one of four community-based organizations receiving MSA funds in the past ten years. The allocation to Westminster in the current fiscal year is \$150,000. Westminster has continuously demonstrated successful program performance and outcomes. Westminster's program deliverables augment health care services and address community needs and gaps.

Section 5 of the proposed Ordinance specifies that every three fiscal years, the Tobacco Settlement Program will need to be evaluated for the overall program effectiveness. This evaluation will entail an analysis of the MSA revenue funding trends and review the roles and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee. To align with this 3-year review cycle, we recommend that the Board support us in continuing the program allocation to the Westminster Free Clinic for the next three year period. We believe that this proposed revision will provide service continuity to the hard-to-reach population and underinsured residents of Ventura County to receive health care services. Westminster is facing a particularly critical time in its funding and needs to know they can count on the continuation of these grant funds in order to leverage funds and services, pay their medical insurance, and keep their valuable student intern program, which is integral to their delivery of low and no-cost health care.

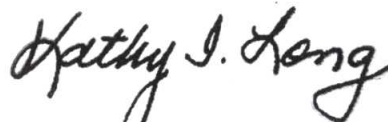
In conjunction with allocating \$150,000 of the grant funds to Westminster for the next three years, we are also recommending that the ordinance and corresponding bylaws be amended to increase the allocation to the grant programs to \$350,000. This will give the Tobacco Settlement Advisory Committee approximately \$200,000 to allocate during the upcoming annual cycle. We would recommend that the rest of the ordinance and bylaws remain in place including the 90%-10% split of tobacco settlement revenues in excess of \$7,600,000.

This letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office and County Counsel.

Cordially,



LINDA PARKS
Supervisor, Second District



KATHY LONG
Supervisor, Third District