



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

P.O. BOX 962, 1080 EMELINE AVENUE
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061
(831) 454-4066 FAX: (831) 454-4770

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY ADMINISTRATION

October 17, 2001

AGENDA: October 23, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Adopt Resolution Supporting Public Health Funding for Bioterrorism Response

Dear Members of the Board:

On October 16, 2001, the County Health Officer, Dr. David McNutt, spoke to your Board regarding the local, state and national response to bioterrorism since the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C. During his presentation, Dr. McNutt referred to the 1988 Institute of Medicine Report that cites inadequate resources in basic public health infrastructure. He also mentioned that the State of California Department of Health Services laboratory has been understaffed for many years. Dr. McNutt reported to your Board the various incidents coming to the attention of first responders in Santa Cruz, incidents which have continued and will likely draw heavily on the local resources for an unpredictable period of time.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) announced on October 17, 2001 that there is an opportunity to improve public health capacity given the attention to bioterrorism in recent days. A specific action that NACCHO recommends is support for the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000, a bill co-authored by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Bill Frist (R-TN). NACCHO has alerted Dr. McNutt that the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000 may include an appropriation of \$835 million in funding to build local and state health capacities. NACCHO is asking local health departments to send letters via facsimile to senators and representatives urging their support for the \$835 million appropriation.

The Health Services Agency is requesting that your Board support the effort to appropriate \$835 million for the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000 by adopting the attached resolution and directing the Chairman of the Board to contact senators and representatives urging their favorable consideration of the appropriation.

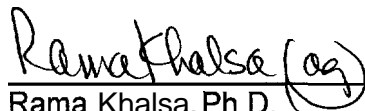
44.1

A copy of a sample letter supplied by NACCHO is attached. NACCHO has respectfully requested blind copies of the letters sent to each senator and representative.

It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Adopt the attached resolution supporting the \$835 million appropriation for the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000 and direct the Chairman of the Board to convey that support to our local legislators.

Sincerely,



Rama Khalsa, Ph.D.
Health Services Administrator

RECOMMENDED:



County Administrative Officer

Attachment: Resolution

cc: County Administrative Office
County Counsel
HSA Administration
Public Health Administration

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted.

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AN \$835 MILLION APPROPRIATION FOR THE
PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS AND EMERGENCY ACT OF 2000**

WHEREAS, bioterrorism preparedness is viewed as an important, immediate national priority; and

WHEREAS, bioterrorism response is necessary to prevent the spread of disease and save as many lives as possible; and

WHEREAS, bioterrorism response requires improving the ability of public health agencies to detect disease outbreaks rapidly and respond to them effectively; and

WHEREAS, the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act of 2000 was enacted to strengthen the nation's capacity to detect and respond to serious public health threats by upgrading the nation's preparedness for the public health consequences of bioterrorism; and

WHEREAS, an appropriation of \$835 million for the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000 would improve the state and local public health capacity to respond to acts of bioterrorism.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, hereby supports an \$835 million appropriation for the Public Health Threats and Emergency Act of 2000 and urges the local United States Representatives and Senators to support Public Health funding for bioterrorism response to the Appropriations Committee.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this twenty-third day of October, 2001 by the following vote:

AYES:	SUPERVISORS
NOES:	SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN:	SUPERVISORS

Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

CLERK — HE BOARD

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Assistant County Counsel

Distribution:
County Administrative Officer
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Health Services Agency Administration
Public Health Administration

44.1