



## COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

AGENDA ITEM NO.

C11

For the meeting of: January 23, 2018

Date: December 22, 2017

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Connie Beck, Director *MS for Connie Beck*  
Department of Health and Human Services

Subject: Donation of an Esco Biological Safety Cabinet to the Public Health Laboratory

### RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors accept and recognize the donation of an Esco Biological Safety Cabinet with a value of approximately \$10,000 to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Public Health Laboratory from Mark Rynearson of McKinleyville, CA.

### SOURCE OF FUNDING:

Public Health

### DISCUSSION:

The DHHS – Public Health Laboratory provides a variety of testing services to the local community with many requests originating from local health care providers, community members and other government departments, and also provides testing of potential bioterrorism agents in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control. Testing often involves specimens that could put laboratory staff at risk, such as highly toxic pathogens, influenza, rabies, tuberculosis and a myriad of other potentially dangerous specimens.

Prepared by Lara Zintsmaster, AA I

CAO Approval *[Signature]*

#### REVIEW:

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Human Resources \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### TYPE OF ITEM:

☒ Consent  
☐ Departmental  
☐ Public Hearing  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

#### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Upon motion of Supervisor *Wilson* Seconded by Supervisor *Bass*

Ayes *Bass, Fennell, Sundberg, Bohn, Wilson*  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent \_\_\_\_\_

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: *1/23/18*

By: *[Signature]*  
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

There are several safety protocols to prevent contamination of both laboratory staff and the actual specimens themselves to ensure accurate, safe testing. The primary safety containment device in the Public Health Laboratory is a Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC). The BSC is an enclosed, ventilated laboratory workspace for safely working with materials potentially contaminated with pathogens that could be dangerous to the user. The airflow and filtration works as a barrier between the specimen and the user to do two things: it protects the user while processing and working on specimens, and it protects specimens from being contaminated, preventing false or inaccurate results. It ultimately keeps the workspace sterile and clean to ensure safe handling.

In November of 2017, Mark Rynearson of McKinleyville, a local community member generously donated a six-month-old, BSC with low operating hours manufactured by Esco with an approximate value of \$10,000 to the Public Health Laboratory. In addition, Mark has also donated accompanying accessories and ventilation ducting required for installation.

The Public Health Laboratory's existing BSC is 25 years old and nearing the end of its life cycle, and will need to be replaced either once it fails or very soon to prevent disruption of several testing services to the community. This donation will prevent the Public Health Laboratory from having to purchase a new BSC in the near future, as they will be able to install the donated BSC instead.

The Public Health Laboratory would like to thank Mark Rynearson for his generous donation, as it will provide many years of safe and accurate testing to its staff and allow funding to be focused on other needs.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Acceptance of this donation will allow the Public Health Laboratory to accept the donation of the BSC, which prevents the Laboratory from having to purchase a new one once the current unit fails. The potential savings are \$10,000 or more in Fund 1175, Budget Unit 435. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Approving this donation supports the Board's Strategic Framework as it creates opportunity for improved safety and health.

#### OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

#### ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Board could decide not to accept the donation of a Biological Safety Cabinet. However, this is not recommended, as this donation will prevent the necessity for the Public Health Laboratory to purchase a new Biological Safety Cabinet in the near future.

#### ATTACHMENTS:

None