

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

December 14, 2020

TO: SBCCOG Steering Committee

FROM: Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG Executive Director

RE: Research into Forming a Health Department

Adherence to the Strategic Plan

Goal B: Regional Advocacy. Advocate for the interests of the South Bay.

The information in this memo is as of December 6. It will be updated at the meeting. The following contacts have been made and information obtained

Whittier and several other cities in the region have asked their staff to look into forming a health department but in Santa Clarita, the council voted to spend \$25,000 to formally study the formation of a health district. The city manager has reported that they have hired a consultant and expect the results around February.

Martha Guzman Hurtado, El Segundo's Legislative Affairs Manager, offered to help with contacts. She spoke with Manuel Carmona – Deputy Director of Pasadena's Health Department. Their budget that shows that the department does not use General Fund dollars. Further information:

- 60% of the department's budget comes from grants
- Other funding comes from the Health Realignment fund that was established in 1992
- The Health Realignment fund uses a state calculation from sales tax and motor vehicle license fees, although this revenue stream has been decreasing and expected to worsen as a result of the pandemic
- Each health officer is an extension of the state, they can issue health orders more restrictive than the state, but not less restrictive
- Mr. Carmona suggested that we reach out to the state to find out if there is a process to start a health department since they were already in existence when they were recognized by the state in the 1940s; He was not aware of a process
- Pasadena's jurisdiction is limited to city limits. In order to extend its jurisdiction to allow for contract cities, the state would need to change its current model to recognize local jurisdictions
- It appears that Pasadena is not interested in expanding; Deputy Director did not want to speak on behalf of the City but said they have a lot going on
- Mr. Carmona mentioned that health departments are required to provide a whole basket of services and are not narrowly focused; although he shared that Vernon has a Health and Environmental Control Department
- Mr. Carmona was not sure who to contact at the state; he mentioned CPDH or the Governor's office

Ms. Guzman Hurtado also forwarded the following information to me on the Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department from research that she did online. The department is narrower than others and only focuses on environmental issues and offers programs to assist businesses with conservation resources, minimizing waste and protecting the environment with the following programs:

- Hazardous Material
- Food Program
- Storm Water Program
- Solid Waste Program
- Garment Program
- Water/Wastewater Systems
- Animal & Vector Control
- General Environmental Health

SBCCOG staff will be meeting with Beach Cities Health District staff on December 9 to discuss their research further. Attached is a memo that they prepared on this topic previously.

RECOMMENDATION

After any updates to this memo, provide direction re: any further action.

Public Health Department Research

Prepared by Beach Cities Health District

The rationale for county wide public health enforcement model was to reduce duplication and improve efficiency of services for area-wide problems. Only 4 cities in CA have own health department (Berkeley, Vernon, Long Beach, Pasadena)

Arguments for establishing city public health department:

- Ability to build programs tailored to the community and create targeted interventions
- Focus on residents of highest need in the city without resources split among vulnerable populations across the county
- Authority to create their own budgets, establish taxes and fees for public health, issue health order without state approval

Arguments against:

- Potentially create duplicative administration infrastructure and fragmented or redundant public health services
- Delays in managing cross-jurisdictional disease investigations and inefficient use of resources for disease surveillance and emergency preparedness
- Transfer financial responsibility for public health services to County tax base

Local Health Agency Requirements

Minimum requirements, responsibilities, and functions of a public health department pursuant to California Health and Safety Code, Section 1276 of Title 17:

- **Collection, tabulation and analysis of public health statistics** including population data, natality, mortality & morbidity records as well as evaluation of service records.
- **Health education programs**
- **Communicable disease control services** including availability of adequate isolation facilities, the control of the acute communicable diseases, and the control of tuberculosis and the venereal diseases
- Medical, nursing, educational, and other services to promote **maternal and child health**
- **Environmental health and sanitation services** for food, housing and institutions, radiological health, milk and dairy products, water, vector control, waste management and air sanitation
- **Public health laboratory services** for populations more than 50,000
- **Nutrition services** including appropriate activities in education and consultation for the promotion of positive health, the prevention of ill health, and the dietary control of disease.
- **Chronic disease prevention or mitigation services**
- Services directed to the **social factors affecting health**
- **Occupational health promotion**
- **Family planning services**
- **Public health nursing services**

Budgets and Departmental Functions

	Annual budget	Departments
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health	\$900 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health • HIV and STD Program • Acute Communicable Disease Control • Community Health Services • Health Assessment and Epidemiology • Emergency Preparedness and Response • Vaccine Preventable Disease Control • Substance Abuse Prevention and Control • Veterinary Public Health • Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention • Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health
Berkeley Public Health Division	\$10.5 million , 45% from general fund, 38% from state, rest from grants from County Health Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood Health, MCAH • Communicable Disease Control • Clinical Services • Vital statistics and Epidemiology • Health Promotion
Long Beach Department of Health	\$117 million 99% funding comes from Federal, State, County and private funds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable Disease Control • Emergency Preparedness • Environmental Health • Healthy Living • Housing and Homeless Services • Material, Child and Family Health Services • Medical Specialty Clinics • Public Health Laboratory • Public Health Nursing
Pasadena Public Health Department	\$15.2 million county, state, federal grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable Disease Prevention & Control • Immunization • Maternal Child and Adolescent Health • Substance Use and Treatment Services • Mental Health Services • Environmental Health • Food Protection • Animal Care & Control • Vector Control • Vital Records • Public Health Emergency Preparedness • Health Promotion and Policy
Vernon Health and Environmental Control Department (not a certified public health department)	\$1.4 million	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Program • CUPA • Storm Water Program • Solid Waste Program • Animal and Vector Control

- Garment Program
- General Environmental Health

COVID-19 Response Comparisons

	LA County	Pasadena	Long Beach
Safer at Home	Initially issued March 16, latest issued May 13. All non-essential businesses can open for pick up/delivery; recreation facilities including beaches, tennis and pickleball, equestrian centers and community gardens open	Initially issued March 19 updated May 15 Consistent with LA County	Initially issued March 12, latest issued May 13 Consistent with LA County
Conditional Reopening of Golf, Lower Risk Retail and Public Spaces-	May 8 Lower risk non-essential business can open for curbside pickup; golf courses; trials; car dealerships	May 15 health order aligns with LA County	May 15 health order aligns with LA County
Congregate Living Facilities	April 24 Limit entry and access to facility; Prohibit ill employees from returning to work; no communal dining and activities; separate areas for staff; staff to wear PPE and masks, require residents to wear face coverings; Infection control guidelines; screenings for individuals entering facility; daily temperature checks for staff and residents; testing for all staff and residents	April 12, added testing requirements May 6 Same as LA County	April 15 Same as LA County and Pasadena, no testing requirements
Temporary Closures of Beaches and Trails	March 27 All trails, trailheads closed; public beaches, piers, public beach parking lots, beach bike paths and beach access points closed	April 9 Recreation areas and parks closed April 11 to April 13 th	March 27 Closure of Beaches, recreational trails, bike and pedestrian paths
Home Isolation Order	Revised May 1 All individuals who have been diagnosed or presumed to have COVID-19 must isolate for at least 72 hours after they have received and at least	Revised May 6 Alignment with LA County Health Officer Order	Revised May 7 Same as LA County

	10 days from when symptoms first appeared. Must notify close contacts and them to self-quarantine.		
Home Quarantine Orders	Revised May 1 All individuals who have been in close contact with person with or presumed to have COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 14 days from last date they were in contact with the person	Revised May 6 Alignment with LA County Health Officer Order	Revised May 7 Same as LA County