



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
April 25, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
 From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager  
 Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services  
 Subject: Revenue Contract: Alameda County for the Vector Program

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract with Alameda County for the Vector Program in the Environmental Health Division of the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department; to accept the grant funds; execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments in line with the grant award, which may be larger or smaller than the projected award of \$1,050,000 for FY2022 through FY2024 to be deposited in Fund 325 (Vector Control); and implement the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This revenue contract will allow the City to be reimbursed for up to \$328,704 for FY22, \$359,476 in FY23 and a projected \$361,820 in FY24 for the actual costs of providing vector services as defined in the contract. Funds will be deposited in Fund 325 (Vector Control) and will be included in the adopted budget.

On March 20, 2023, the County provided the maximum reimbursement amounts for FY22 and FY23. The maximum reimbursement amount for FY24 has not yet been determined by Alameda County but is projected to be similar.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Vector Program is a program of the Department of Health, Housing, and Community Services' Environmental Health Division (HHCS/EH). County Vector Program funding supports City staff who can respond to vector-related questions and complaints from residents. Vector program funds are collected from Alameda County tax payers and the amount in the City's contract reflects the County's calculation of the amount attributable to Berkeley, less charges for the County's administration and any vector services the County provides within Berkeley.

The County requires a reporting of staff time to the minute associated with a specific address in order to calculate reimbursements, and places a cap on any time not spent on direct service. As a result, over the past three years, the City has averaged about

\$170,000 in annual revenue from this contract, despite a higher allowable amount. The new contract will include the County's agreement to pay for 100% of a staff position that is assigned 100% to vector services, without the same level of documentation. HHCS anticipates being able to bill for more of the contract once the position has been filled.

The Vector Program is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to create a resilient, safe, connected, and prepared city.

### BACKGROUND

Environmental health is the branch of public health concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment affecting human health. In the Vector Program, HHCS/EH responds to requests for service related to disease vectors such as rodents, insects (bed bugs, fleas, flies, cockroaches), arachnids (mites, ticks), and nuisance wildlife (bats, raccoons, opossums, skunks), as well as causative conditions, such as garbage, rubbish, overgrowth and abandoned/neglected properties.

HHCS/EH inspectors identify vector issues, make recommendations on how to address them, and educate residents about preventing and addressing vector issues. HHCS/EH is not a pest control service provider. While most environmental health departments in California are operated by counties, the City has historically had its own.

Staffing costs have increased over the past years but the size of the vector program contract has stayed relatively similar, which makes sustaining these services increasingly difficult even if all services are reimbursed.

### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no sustainability impacts associated directly with the subject of this report.

### RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

HHCS/EH saw a marked increase in calls for vector services during the pandemic. Renewing this contract will allow HHCS/EH to continue providing these services to the Berkeley community.

### ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

The City could elect not to accept these funds and not provide related vector services. Because of the increase in calls for vector services since 2020, and the importance of these services to the community, this approach is not recommended.

### CONTACT PERSON

Ron Torres, Manager of Environmental Health, HHCS, (510) 981-5261

Attachments:  
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

REVENUE CONTRACT: ALAMEDA COUNTY FOR THE VECTOR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, environmental health is the branch of public health concerned with all aspects of the natural and built environment affecting human health; and

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley had its own vector control program since before Alameda County established a vector control County Service Area (CSA) funded primarily by a benefit assessment charge onto each real property in the district; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 Alameda County established a service contract with the City of Berkeley so the City would continue provide its own vector control services to the residents of Berkeley each year; and

WHEREAS, the latest Alameda County and City of Berkeley vector program contract ended in FY2022.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is hereby authorized to execute a contract with Alameda County for the Vector Program in the Environmental Health Division of the Health, Housing, and Community Services Department; to accept the grant funds; execute any resultant revenue agreements and amendments in line with the grant award, which may be larger or smaller than the projected award of \$1,050,000 for FY2022 through FY2024 to be deposited in Fund 325 (Vector Control); and implement the projects and appropriation of funding for related expenses, subject to securing the grant. A record signature copy of said agreements and any amendments shall be on file in the office of the City Clerk.

