

**Cannabis Budget Augmentation Request – FY18-19**

**Comments: General description of the request.**

The Environmental Health Bureau requests augmentation of \$50,000 for costs associated with laboratory analysis and testing fees for Fiscal Year 2018-19 for the provision of sample analysis of pesticide and other potentially hazardous chemicals encountered as part of legal and illegal cannabis growing operation investigations. Laboratory analysis is an essential part of responses to cannabis related complaints. Augmentation of \$50,000 for Fiscal Year 2018-19 is requested for the collection, transportation and analysis of these samples.

Currently staff are responding to investigation and inspections related to cannabis, both legal and illegal without any augmented funding to support these additional services. Part of this response includes the need to collect and transport samples to determine chemical analysis of pesticides and associated chemicals. Currently it is projected that there are over 50+ illegal cannabis operations in Monterey County which require staffing already committed to the delivery of environmental health public services. As this need to address, investigate and inspect cannabis operations will be ongoing, the need for laboratory testing and analysis will continue.

**Summary: Summarize what you are asking for and why it is needed.**

**FY 18-19:** The Environmental Health Bureau requests an augmentation of \$50,000 for costs associated with laboratory sampling and analysis associated with cannabis cultivation. With the approval of Medical Marijuana / Commercial Cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, transportation and dispensing operations in Monterey County, the Bureau has experienced an increase in permit applications, ongoing health inspections and educational outreach needs to establish and maintain that these Medical Marijuana / Commercial Cannabis operations will be conducted in a manner to ensure the public and environment is safe. As part of the coordinated County response to legal as well as illegal, non-permitted cannabis operations, on site sampling for chemical toxicity analysis is required. Samples are collected by certified hazardous material technician or certified hazardous material specialists through the use of specialized sampling equipment.

**General Information: Explain in detail what the augmentation is asking for and why it is needed. Include details that support your need.**

With the approval of Medical Marijuana / Commercial Cannabis cultivation, manufacturing and dispensary operations in Monterey County, the Bureau's Environmental Health Specialist teams respond to review, approve (or deny) commercial cannabis applications for Health Permitted business for commercial cannabis cultivation, manufacturing, transportation and/or dispensaries whose Environmental Health related activities may include but not limited to Retail Food handling, Hazardous Materials storage and use, Drinking Water Systems, construction of Drinking Water Wells, management of Solid Waste and Composting. This augmentation request is critical to meet the anticipated increase in inspections and application/permit processing and associated lab sampling and analysis, in response to an anticipated increase in public complaints and coordinated

County response to both legal and illegal, non-permitted cannabis operations. Permittable operations have been estimated to range between 40 and 50 facilities, however unpermitted commercial level cannabis businesses within the state have been reported to be in the 10,000's.

**Effects of Non-Funding Proposal: Explain what not filling the augmentation will mean to your program.**

Costs associated with lab sampling analysis include supplies and equipment such as jars, brass tubes, dry ice, “one time use” of proper protective equipment (PPE), transportation of lab samples laboratory either locally or via FedEx to out of area laboratories, report preparation, use of vehicles for lab sampling. A conservative estimate of ten illegal operation sites will be investigated with a minimum of five samples each site will be needed. Cost recovery will be pursued through District Attorney settlement agreements however this could take months or possibly years to recover.

**Non-Cannabis Funding/Describe Anticipated or Potential: Describe any funding source available outside of cannabis revenue.**

**FY 18-19 (Nov-June): There are no known alternative funding sources available to support this request.**

This is need will be ongoing and requires licensed professional (Environmental Health Specialist) qualified to conduct inspections and regulatory enforcement, including sampling to determine chemicals and pesticide use. Staff are State of California Certified Hazardous Materials Specialists or Certified Hazardous Material Technicians. No alternative solutions will meet this mandate. Without funding, the need for cannabis inspections still exists and the Health Department will need to use the existing resources that are currently dedicated and legally obligated to responding to various health inspections at restaurants, beaches, wells and responding to hazardous materials incidents. The public will experience a higher frequency of injuries, illnesses and deaths related to poor environmental conditions where food is served, water is consumed, land is used, homes are provided, waste is disposed, and chemicals are stored.