June 20, 2019

Honorable Board of Supervisors
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: ACCEPT THE 2018 PAUL COVERDELL FORENSIC SCIENCE IMPROVEMENT GRANT

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the Sheriff, by title, to accept the 2018 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant from the State of California Office of Emergency Services for the purchase of forensic science software, equipment and training in the amount of $64,657, for the grant period 1/1/19-12/31/19.

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant is awarded to state and local government agencies to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science services. The Sheriff’s Office Crime Laboratory will purchase software and equipment, which will allow them to bypass encrypted iPhones to support criminal investigations in a timely manner. They will also purchase Forensic Light Sources, which will utilize multiple light wavelengths and photography to visualize stains to a higher standard than the laboratory’s current technology can meet. These funds will also be utilized to provide Sheriff’s Office Crime Lab staff additional training in firearms investigation, biological evidence screening, DNA analysis and DNA interpretation.

FINANCING:

No additional appropriations are required. The costs of the software, equipment and associated training will be fully offset with funding from the 2018 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grant program. There will be no increase in net County cost as a result of your approval.
VISION 2026 GOAL:

The acceptance of the 2018 Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement grant for the purchase of software, equipment and essential training meets the 10x goal pathways of Crime Free County in support of our shared vision of Safe and Livable Communities.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Gregory J. Ahern
Sheriff-Coroner

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