

9 - Forensic Science DNA Program

- 1. Program Area**
PUBLIC PROTECTION
- 2. Identify agencies and departments involved.**
Sheriff Agency 060 – Forensic Science DNA (SC08)
- 3. Is the Strategic Priority new or previously identified in earlier Strategic Financial Plan; if previously identified, what has changed and why.**
New
- 4. Provide a description of project/program – what it is and what it will achieve:**
DNA is rapidly becoming an effective law enforcement tool. With the advances in DNA technology, the robustness of DNA databases, and the passage of Prop 69 in 2004, DNA is being found in and used to solve more crimes than ever before. The Sheriff's Department Forensic Science Services Division has been a leader in the area of DNA technology.

Historically, DNA analysis has typically been used to help solve major violent crimes, such as homicides and sexual assaults. With advancements in DNA technology, DNA samples can be obtained not only from visible biological stains, but also from items or objects that have been merely touched or handled. In September 2005, Orange County was invited to be part of a National Institute of Justice research project on the feasibility of conducting DNA testing on property crimes. This pilot program provides funding for 18 months for additional staff (9 positions) who focus on high volume property crime (commercial and residential burglaries) that are typically committed by career criminals who commit repeat crimes. Studies in the UK have shown that for every conviction based on a DNA hit, eight future crimes are prevented. Clearly, catching these career criminals early in their criminal career will reduce crime in the future. To continue analyzing samples related to property crime, additional ongoing funding is needed for the 9 positions.

DNA casework requests are rapidly increasing. The casework submitted for January through October 2006 (over 1500 cases) is more than double the work for calendar year 2004 (722 cases). Given the increased application of

forensic DNA technology and expansion to non-violent crimes, the cases could grow to 4,000 if city police departments start collecting samples of DNA at property crimes and submitting them for analysis.

DNA successes are increasing rapidly as well. In 2004, there were 44 DNA database hits. In 2005, they nearly doubled to 85 DNA database hits. For the period January 2006 through September 2006, 202 DNA database hits have been obtained. For the first nine months of 2006 alone, there were more DNA hits than all the combined DNA hits obtained for every year since 1996. It should be noted that approximately 75% of all DNA hits obtained by the crime lab are from robbery and burglary cases.

Orange County's crime lab has state-of-the-art DNA equipment and personnel who are trained in the latest techniques to provide the highest quality of forensic DNA analysis. The current focus of the Sheriff's Department is to reduce the amount of time required to analyze DNA samples and at the same time to increase the number and type of cases analyzed. Once the investigating agency brings evidence to the County's DNA lab for testing, the time it takes to perform the testing is a function of staffing, facilities, and equipment. Currently, the time it takes the County's DNA lab to complete DNA testing averages approximately 60 days for major crimes and approximately 4 months for property crimes. Under rare and special circumstances, testing for an extremely serious crime has been expedited and completed in less than 5 days. However, there are many cases involving violent crime that cannot be expedited due to current staffing levels and the overall increase in DNA cases.

At this time, it is not cost effective to expand the crime lab to be able to complete testing for all cases within an average of 5 days. However, there is a clear public safety need to expedite testing for serious, violent crimes to try to apprehend the perpetrator as soon as possible to get him or her off the streets. The Sheriff's Department is proposing to expand the capabilities of the lab to accelerate the testing of DNA to complete all DNA casework within 30 days of submission to the laboratory. The samples tested within 30 days would include major crimes such as homicides, sexual assaults, violent assaults, and other major felonies, as well as expand the crime lab's capabilities to conduct property crimes, auto burglary, larceny and other lesser felonies to all County public safety agencies. The capability to expedite testing for serious violent offences would remain for special

circumstances such that results would be completed within 5 days of submission to the laboratory.

To achieve these processing times, permanent funding for the 9 positions that are currently funded by grant funds needs to be approved (\$1,013,000 per year), additional permanent staffing (42 positions \$4.5 million/year ongoing), training (\$300,000 one-time), equipment (\$1.3 million one-time), supplies (\$900,000 ongoing), vehicles (4 fully equipped crime scene response vans \$162,000 one-time) and expansion of the lab facilities (\$6.75 million to expand into an additional floor of the Gates Building upon IWMD's relocation) will be needed.

- 5. Identify personnel – will the program/project require additional staffing? If so, estimate number of positions by classification.**
This program will require a total of 9 ongoing positions and 42 new positions.
- 6. Identify one-time costs (e.g. equipment purchase)**
\$300,000 – Training
\$1,348,725 – Equipment
\$162,000 – Vehicles
\$6,750,000 – Renovation of 1 floor
- 7. Identify potential funding sources (e.g., State, Federal, General Fund, fees).**
General Fund
- 8. Identify community awareness (stakeholders).**
Orange County Public Safety Agencies
- 9. Is this program/project mandated or discretionary?**
Discretionary
- 10. Identify implementation period if funding were available.**
FY 2007-08

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	FY 06-07	FY 07-08	FY 08-09	FY 09-10	FY 10-11	FY 11-12	FY 12-13	FY 13-14	FY 14-15	FY 15-16	FY 16-17
I. Cost											
One-Time Costs											
Training		300,000									
Equipment		1,348,725									
Vehicles		162,000									
Renovation of 2 floors		6,750,000									
Agency One-Time Cost Total	0	8,560,725	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Cost											
Salaries & Employee Benefits		5,502,714	5,667,795	5,837,829	6,012,964	6,193,353	6,379,154	6,570,528	6,767,644	6,970,673	7,179,794
Services and Supplies		750,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Other Charges											
Fixed Assets		1,510,725									
All Others		6,750,000									
Agency Ongoing Cost Total	0	14,513,439	6,567,795	6,737,829	6,912,964	7,093,353	7,279,154	7,470,528	7,667,644	7,870,673	8,079,794
Agency Cost Total	0	14,513,439	6,567,795	6,737,829	6,912,964	7,093,353	7,279,154	7,470,528	7,667,644	7,870,673	8,079,794
II. Non-General Fund Revenue											
Taxes											
Licenses, Permits, Franchises											
Fines, Forfeitures, Penalties											
Use of Money and Property											
Intergovernmental Revenues											
Charges For Services											
Miscellaneous Revenue											
Other Financing Sources											
Agency Revenue Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
III. General Fund Requirement	0	14,513,439	6,567,795	6,737,829	6,912,964	7,093,353	7,279,154	7,470,528	7,667,644	7,870,673	8,079,794
IV. Staffing											
Forensic Scientist III		31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
Senior Forensic Specialist		4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Senior Forensic Scientist		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Data Entry Technician		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Correctional Services Technician		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Systems Programmer/Analyst II		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Agency Position Total	0	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Recommend funding department's original request of \$6.3 million NCC over the five year plan period (FY 07-08 - \$1.5M; \$1.2M each of the following four years).											