

March 4, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT GRANT
FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,
FOR THE AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE FRAUD PROGRAM
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Adopt the enclosed Resolution authorizing the District Attorney to accept grant funds for the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program from the State of California, Department of Insurance (SCDI). The SCDI will provide funds in the amount of \$3,212,482 for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003.
2. Authorize the District Attorney to execute the Grant Award Agreement, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles.
3. Authorize the District Attorney or his designee, on behalf of the County of Los Angeles, to serve as project director and to sign and approve any extensions, amendments, augmentations, or revisions to the program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The District Attorney's Office has been awarded grant funding of \$3,212,482 by the SCDI to enhance prosecutorial efforts in ongoing crime investigations and the prosecution of automobile insurance fraud activity in Los Angeles County. As part of the Grant Award Agreement, the SCDI requires adoption of the enclosed Resolution.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals:

Consistent with the County's Strategic Plan, this program enhances organizational effectiveness and directly supports the District Attorney's core mission: to vigorously prosecute felony crime, such as automobile insurance fraud, throughout the County.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

This program is already included in the 2002-03 adopted budget. Grant funds in the amount of \$3,212,482 have been awarded to the Los Angeles County District Attorney for the Auto Insurance Fraud Program. The SCDI grant offsets 100 percent of this program; therefore, there is no net County cost impact.

If funding for this program were terminated, an evaluation would be conducted to determine whether the program would be either continued with costs absorbed by the Department, or would be discontinued with the reallocation of staff to vacant budgeted positions.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

On December 10, 2002, the District Attorney's Office received a grant award letter from the State of California, Department of Insurance (SCDI). The SCDI has awarded funding for the Automobile Insurance Fraud Program for the past nine years. These grant funds will allow the District Attorney's Office to continue its collaborative efforts with SCDI to investigate and prosecute unscrupulous doctors, chiropractors, cappers and lawyers engaged in automobile insurance fraud. The grant will continue to fund 32.0 full-time and 3.0 part-time positions as reported on the Grant Management Statement attached to this Board letter.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS):

There is no impact on any other budgeted programs or projects. This program does not propose attorney staff augmentation, and therefore is not subject to the Board motion of December 15, 1998 requiring clearance with the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Public Defender, and Sheriff's Department.

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CONCLUSION:

Acceptance of continuing grant funds is strongly recommended.

Following Board approval on this program, the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board is requested to return a copy of the adopted Board letter and two (2) copies of the executed Resolution, containing original signatures, to Emily Aidells, Grants Analyst, Los Angeles County District Attorney, 201 North Figueroa Street, Suite 1300, Los Angeles, California 90012. Any questions may be directed to Emily Aidells at (213) 202-7674.

Very truly yours,

STEVE COOLEY
District Attorney

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Enclosures

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel