

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY

DEPT: Health Services Agency BOARD AGENDA #: *B-10

AGENDA DATE: March 28, 2017

SUBJECT:

Approval of Appointment of Del Morris, M.D. as the Interim Public Health Officer Effective March 31, 2017

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2017-133

On motion of Supervisor Withrow , Seconded by Supervisor Olsen
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Withrow, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST: 
PAM VILLARREAL, Assistant Clerk

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT Health Services Agency
Urgent Routine

BOARD AGENDA #: *B-10

AGENDA DATE: March 28, 2017

CEO

CONCURRENCE: *phd*

4/5 Vote Required: Yes No

SUBJECT:

Approval of Appointment of Del Morris, M.D. as the Interim Public Health Officer Effective March 31, 2017

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Approve the appointment of Del Morris, M.D. as the Interim Public Health Officer effective March 31, 2017 in accordance with Sections 101000 and 101005 of the California Health and Safety Code.
2. Direct the Health Services Agency Managing Director or her designee to notify the California State Department of Public Health of the appointment of Dr. Del Morris in accordance with Section 101010.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. John Walker, who has served as the Stanislaus County Public Health Officer since November of 2000, is retiring. His last date of employment will be March 30, 2017. The Health Services Agency, working with the Chief Executive Office, has been actively recruiting to fill the position of Public Health Officer, but at this date has yet to finalize the process which would enable a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for appointment of a new Public Health Officer.

Dr. Del Morris is the Medical Director of the Health Services Agency's Clinical Operations and is a Board Certified Family Physician. Since he is already a full-time County employee, this appointment recommendation signifies a designation of authority and responsibilities consistent with the State's Health and Safety Code, rather than an offer of employment. Dr. Morris has served full-time in the Medical Director capacity since 2006, and as part of those duties, has served as a back-up Assistant Public Health Officer for coverage of duties when Dr. Walker was on vacation or otherwise not available. In an effort to have planned depth for emergency coverage, the Health Services Agency has an additional part-time contracted physician who provides support for particular public health programming and acts as a back-up Assistant Public Health Officer when needed.

The recruitment effort for a future permanent Public Health Officer continues with active candidates in the process. Staff will bring a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for a permanent appointment once an ideal candidate is identified.

The recommendation to appoint Dr. Morris on an interim basis as Public Health Officer while he continues to fulfill his full-time Medical Director responsibilities will require support during this interim period. Existing Staff from Public Health will assist, and it is contemplated that a request will be made to the Board of Supervisors for Dr. Walker to return post retirement in a limited part-time capacity.

POLICY ISSUE:

California Health and Safety Code section 101000 states that “each board of supervisors shall appoint a health officer who is a county officer.” Section 101500 requires that a County Public Health Officer be a medical school graduate and defers the compensation determination to the Board of Supervisors. Given the approaching retirement date of Dr. John Walker, staff recommend an interim appointment to ensure no interruption in the County’s ability to carry out the responsibilities of the Public Health Officer.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation as an existing staff member will fulfill the responsibilities on an interim basis.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

Approval of this appointment supports the Board’s priority of A Healthy Community and Efficient Delivery of Public Services by ensuring that the Health Services Agency has arranged for continuous coverage of a designated physician as the Public Health Officer.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff and potential part time resources will fulfill the role of the Public Health Officer, while staff continues the effort to attract and secure an ideal permanent candidate to fill the imminent vacancy.

CONTACT PERSON:

Mary Ann Lee, Managing Director, 209-558-7163

ATTACHMENT(S):

None