



## **County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors**

### **Agenda Item Submittal**

**From:** Health Services Agency

**Subject:** Schedule a public hearing pursuant to Beilenson Act Requirements

**Meeting Date:** May 20, 2025

**Formal Title:** Schedule a public hearing pursuant to Beilenson Act requirements for Health Services Agency radiology and laboratory redesign, and take related actions

### **Recommended Actions**

1. Schedule a public hearing on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. or thereafter, pursuant to §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act), to consider a radiology and laboratory redesign;
2. Approve Notice of Public Hearing and authorize the Health Services Agency to post the Notice of Public Hearing all County health care facilities, pursuant to the Beilenson Act requirements; and
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish the Notice of Public Hearing, in a newspaper of general circulation, at least 14 days prior to the hearing date, as required by §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act).

### **Executive Summary**

The Health Services Agency (HSA) requests that the Board set a Beilenson noticed public hearing for June 10, 2025, to fulfill California Health and Safety Code section 1442.5 requirements before proceeding with the proposed redesign of radiology and laboratory services, which may involve a reduction or changes to these medical services. The hearing was originally scheduled for May 20, 2025, but due to an advance noticing issue, the date must be moved to June 10th.

### **Discussion**

A Beilenson hearing is a public hearing that is required by §1442.5 of the California Health and Safety Code (Beilenson's Act) for public input into proposed public health service reductions. Prior to closing, eliminating or reducing the level of medical services provided by the leasing, selling, or transfer of management of a county facility, the Board shall provide public notice of public hearings to be held by the Board prior to its decision to proceed. The notice should be posted at the entrance to all County health care facilities not less than 14 days prior to the public hearings. The notice shall contain a list of the proposed reductions or changes, by facility and service. The notice shall include the amount and type of each proposed change, the expected savings, and the number of positions affected. Further, notwithstanding the closing or reducing the level of medical services, the Board shall fulfill its duty to provide care to all indigent people, either directly through county facilities or indirectly through alternative means.

The Beilenson Act states that public notice must be "posted at the entrance to all county health care facilities, of public hearings to be held by the board prior to its decision to proceed". Due to an administrative error, there was insufficient posting at the clinics

locations with 14 days' advance notice of the May 20th public hearing. Board approval is therefore required to approve the updated notice and move the public hearing to June 10, 2025.

The County's laboratory and radiology departments are located at 1080 Emeline Avenue in Santa Cruz and 1430 Freedom Boulevard in Watsonville. As HSA continues to navigate a challenging budget environment, it has become increasingly evident that the financial viability of the County's laboratory and radiology services does not align with the current needs and priorities of the Health Centers Division (Health Centers). Referring HSA patients to external radiology and laboratory providers will reduce costs by approximately \$2,000,000.

### **Financial Impact**

Approximately \$2,000,000 in cost reductions are expected with the radiology and laboratory redesign, as noted in the FY 2025-26 Proposed Budget that is elsewhere on today's Board agenda, with staffing changes detailed in Attachment A - Beilenson Public Notice for Redesign of Radiology and Laboratory Services. Savings will come from the following budgets:

Emeline Health Center Laboratory	GL 361250-41675
Emeline Health Center Radiology	GL 361260-41675
Watsonville Health Center Laboratory	GL 361350-41675
Watsonville Health Center Radiology	GL 361360-41675

### **Strategic Initiatives**

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

### **Submitted By:**

Monica Morales, Director of Health Services

### **Recommended By:**

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

### **Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.