



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name:	Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Department No.:	051
Agenda Date:	August 19, 2025
Placement:	Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time:	
Continued Item:	No
If Yes, date from:	
Vote Required:	Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jose Chang, Agricultural Commissioner
Contact: Stephanie Stark, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
SUBJECT: **Pest Detection Agreement 25-0002-047-SF with the California Department of Food and Agriculture**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to detect insect pests for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$7,948.00; and
- b) Determine that the above action involves government funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities and is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4) and 15306.

Summary Text:

This item requests Board approval of an agreement with the CDFA to reimburse the County for pest detection activities conducted by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office throughout Santa Barbara County. The program includes trapping, surveying, data collection, mapping, and other activities aimed at detecting three high-priority pest species: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Cotton Seed Bug, and Box Tree Moth.

Discussion:

The proposed agreement provides funding to support the County Agricultural Commissioner's (CAC) efforts to detect and respond to the presence of three target species included in this detection program: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug, Cotton Seed Bug, and Box Tree Moth. All are all classified as "A"-rated pests under the California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 3162. An "A" rating is assigned to pests that are not known to occur in California or are of limited distribution and subject to official control due to their potential economic and environmental impact.

Detection activities will focus on plant nurseries and other high-risk locations that trade in known host plants. Field staff will conduct trapping, surveys, and mapping activities to detect and monitor for early signs of these pests and respond quickly to mitigate potential spread.

Funding for this program is through the United States Department of Agriculture and is distributed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. This is the first year of the program, and future funding is currently uncertain. While targeted detection activities under this agreement may not continue beyond this year, the Department will maintain surveillance for invasive species through existing programs.

Background:

California faces over \$3 billion in annual agricultural losses due to invasive pests (Source: Center for Invasive Species Research, UC Riverside). This agreement supports the mission of the County Agricultural Commissioner (CAC) to protect agriculture, natural resources, and the quality of life in Santa Barbara County through proactive detection and response efforts.

The three target species included in this detection program: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug (*Maconellicoccus hirsutus*), Cotton Seed Bug (*Oxycarenus hyalinipennis*), and Box Tree Moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*). They are all classified as "A"-rated pests under the California Code of Regulations, Title 3, Section 3162. An "A" rating is assigned to pests that are not known to occur in California or are of limited distribution and subject to official control due to their potential economic and environmental impact. Like many invasive species, these pests have broad host ranges, high reproductive potential, can cause severe plant damage or reduced yields and they are likely to spread through the movement of infested nursery stock.

Performance Measure:

The Pest Detection Program Agreement reimburses the Department at an hourly rate for pest detection, quarantine response and regulatory enforcement activities. Reimbursable activities include detection trapping, visual surveys, data entry and reporting. There is no predetermined metric for this agreement.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes *

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY [25/26]	FY [<i>fiscal year 2</i>]	FY [<i>fiscal year 3</i>]	Total
General Fund				
State				
Federal	\$7,948.00			\$7,948.00
Fees				
[<i>Other Source</i>]				
Total	\$7,948.00			\$7,948.00

Staffing Impacts:

None. The work will be completed by the existing staff.

Special Instructions:

Please return a fully executed signature page for Agreement #25-0002-047-SF, and a minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Pest Detection Agreement #25-0002-047-SF

Contact Information:

Stephanie Stark

Deputy Agricultural Commissioner