



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:
Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Department Number:
051
Agenda Date:
June 9, 2026
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 Program Amendment to Agreement 25-0002-047-SF with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

Concurrences:

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement amendment 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 \$15,907; 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. The request is to increase the agreement by \$7,959 for a new total not to exceed \$15,907.

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.

The CAC completed the work and submitted invoices to the CDFA for reimbursement. CDFA initially reimbursed the County the full contract amount of \$7,948. In April 2026, the CDFA informed us additional funding was available and provided the County with an additional \$7,959, bringing the contract total amount to \$15,907 and resulting in full cost recovery.

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:

The original grant award of \$7,948 has been increased to a total grant award of \$15,907.

Funding Source	Original Grant Award FY 25/26	Additional Grant Award FY 25/26	Revised Grant Award Total FY 25/26
General Fund			
State			
Federal	\$7,948.00	\$7,959.00	\$15,907.00
Fees			
[Other Source]			
Total	\$7,948.00	\$7,959.00	\$15,907.00

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, Amendment No. 1 and a minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Pest Detection Agreement #25-0002-047-SF, Amendment No. 1

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

Contact Information:

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Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

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