



**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
Department No.: 051
Agenda Date: June 23, 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: Matthew Maiten, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

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SUBJECT: Industrial Hemp Cultivation Program Agreement 24-0824-017-SG with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

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 of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to reimburse the County for the registration of Industrial Hemp growers and seed breeders and the enforcement of laws and regulations pertaining to industrial hemp for the period of February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028;
- 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).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve, ratify, and authorize an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to receive reimbursement for the County's activities to perform regulatory work in the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Program. Through this agreement, the CDFA reimburses the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office for the cost associated with the activities of registration of industrial hemp growers and seed breeders, enforcement of laws and

regulations pertaining to industrial hemp, and prevention of non-compliant plantings from entering the marketplace as industrial hemp.

Background:

On February 1, 2022, the Board of Supervisors adopted Ordinance No. 5149, regulating industrial hemp cultivation within the unincorporated area of the County. CDFA and county agricultural commissioners have different responsibilities with regard to the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Program, as delineated by the Food and Agricultural Code Division 24, its implementing regulations, and a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding between the State of California and California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association.

One of CDFA’s responsibilities is to allocate funds from the Department of Food and Agriculture Fund to the County Agricultural Commissioner to cover the costs of hemp registration, investigation, and enforcement activities. To accomplish this, CDFA has entered into this cooperative agreement with other California counties.

The agreement would reimburse the County in an amount not to exceed \$25,000, for the period of February 1, 2026, through February 31, 2028. The County would be reimbursed for collecting and transmitting registration and renewal fees, confirming registrant eligibility, and investigating and overseeing enforcement by non-registered cultivators. The effective date of the agreement was February 1, 2026, hence the recommended action for the agreement to be ratified.

Performance Measure:

The activities performed in this agreement are based on registered hemp growers. Currently, there is one registered hemp grower in Santa Barbara County.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY27/28	Total Contract Cost
General Fund				
State	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000
Federal				
Fees				
Total	\$0	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$25,000

Narrative: The recommended agreement will reimburse the Agricultural Commissioner’s Office for activities invoiced to CDFA for up to \$25,000.

Key Contract Risks:

If funding for any fiscal year is reduced or deleted by the Budget Act for purposes of this program, the CDFA shall have the option to either cancel this Agreement with no liability occurring to the State, or offer an Agreement amendment to the Contractor to reflect the reduced amount.

Staffing Impacts:

The work required under the Industrial Hemp Cultivation Program Agreement will continue to be completed by existing staff.

Special Instructions:

Please return a minute order and a fully executed signature page for Agreement No. 24-0827-017-SG to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office/Weights and Measures Department.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Industrial Hemp Cultivation Program Agreement No. 24-0827-017-SG

Contact Information:

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