



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:

**Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)**

Department Name: Agricultural Commissioner
Department No.: 051
Agenda Date: May 12, 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: Noah Beyeler, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
Kendra Stites, Supervising Administrative Office Professional
SUBJECT: Apiary Protection Program Agreement No. 25-0578-000-SA 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) to receive reimbursement for services related to the Apiary Protection Program in the County of Santa Barbara for the period of January 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$8,743.19; 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).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to receive reimbursement for the Apiary Protection Program. Through this agreement, the CDFA reimburses the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (CAC) for the costs incurred by the CAC in the administration and enforcement of the registration and inspection of apiaries located in the county.

Discussion:

California state law requires that every person that is the owner, broker, or is in possession of an apiary that is located within the state registers the number of colonies in each apiary that is owned or possessed by them. In addition to registering, each beekeeper is required to pay a registration fee for the year. The source for CDFA reimbursement funds is registration fees paid by beekeepers and apiary brokers.

The activities covered by the agreement ensure the requirements of the Food and Agricultural Code pertaining to apiary registration, management, and movement are met.

Background:

Honeybees are essential to agricultural production and environmental health due to their role as pollinators. A substantial portion of California’s agricultural production depends on pollination provided by managed honeybee colonies. Through registration and inspection activities, the Apiary Protection Program supports the early detection of pests and diseases, promotes compliance with State laws, and helps protect pollinators.

Performance Measure:

The Apiary Protection Program Agreement reimburses the Department at an hourly rate for apiary registration and inspection activities. Reimbursable activities include assisting beekeepers and brokers with utilizing online registration software, promoting registration through outreach and education, verifying and monitoring registration, inspecting apiaries, and providing oversight of contaminated hive and colony disposal. Additionally, the Department is reimbursed annually through a flat fee for each beekeeper registered within the county.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25/26-FY26/27	Total
General Fund		
State	\$8,743.19	\$8,743.19
Federal		
Fees		
Total	\$8,743.19	\$8,743.19

Staffing Impacts:

None. The work required under the Apiary Protection Program agreement will be completed by existing staff.

Special Instructions:

Please return a minute order and a fully executed signature page for Agreement No. 25-0578-000-SA to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office/ Weights and Measures Department.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Apiary Protection Program Agreement No. 25-0578-000-SA

Contact Information:

Noah Beyeler
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner
nbeyeler@countyofsb.org