



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:** December 9, 2025  
**Placement:** Administrative Agenda  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Director(s): Jose Chang  
Contact: Stephanie Stark or Kendra Stites  
**SUBJECT:** High Risk Pest Exclusion (HRPE) Program Agreement #25-0418-000-SG with the California Department of Food and Agriculture

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**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 of the Board of Supervisors to execute an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for inspection and enforcement activities in the high-risk pest exclusion program for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 in the amount of \$313,512.49; 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, ratify and execute an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to receive reimbursement for the high-risk pest exclusion program.

**Discussion:**

The CDFA High Risk Pest Exclusion Program works to protect the state’s agriculture and environment by preventing the introduction and spread of invasive pests. This proactive effort helps safeguard agriculture, natural resources, and the economy from potentially devastating pest infestations.

Through this program, the Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office is reimbursed for activities such as inspecting high-risk shipments, monitoring pest entry pathways, and enforcing quarantine regulations. Inspections are conducted at high-risk locations including FedEx, United Postal Service, United States Post Office, commercial nurseries and other known high-risk receivers.

High risk commodities, shipments, and pathways have a greater likelihood of introducing or spreading invasive pests or diseases such as invasive fruit flies and the Red Imported Fire Ant that can cause severe damage to agriculture and the natural environment. Risk factors include the origin of the shipment (especially from infested or quarantined areas), the type of material being moved (e.g., plants, soil, or produce that can host pests), and prior pest interceptions.

**Background:**

Since Fiscal Year 1999-2000, the department has received annual revenue contracts from the CDFA for reimbursement of high-risk pest exclusion program activities. We anticipate the CDFA will continue to provide this funding to reimburse our high-risk inspection and enforcement activities.

**Performance Measure:**

The CDFA high risk pest exclusion program reimburses the Department at an hourly rate for regulatory inspections of incoming plant material and enforcement activities. There is no predetermined metric for this agreement.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

**Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY [25/26]</b>	<b>FY [fiscal year 2]</b>	<b>FY [fiscal year 3]</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund				
State	\$313,512.49			\$313,512.49
Federal				
Fees				
[Other Source]				
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$313,512.49</b>

**Staffing Impacts:**

The work required under the high-risk pest exclusion program agreement will continue to be completed by existing staff.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a fully executed signature page for Agreement No. 25-0418-000-SG and a minute order to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – HRPE Agreement - Revised 11.6.25

**Contact Information:**

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