



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 24, 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, Commissioner/Director, 805-934-6200  
Contact: Lottie Martin, Assistant Commissioner or Kendra Stites, Admin. or  
Anthony Ponce-Estrada  
**SUBJECT:** Regents of the University Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Agreement FY 25/26

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**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 and authorize the Chair of the Board of Supervisors to execute the agreement with the Regents of the University of California for services delivered by the Cooperative Extension Office (UCCE) for the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, in the amount of \$180,000; and
- b) Determine that the above actions are not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), as administrative government activities that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

This item is on the agenda for the Board of Supervisors to approve, ratify and authorize an agreement with the Regents of the University of California. Through this agreement the UCCE Advisors and Paraprofessionals (program assistants) will provide consultation services to the County, including research-based training, educational guidance and access to beneficial University resources and will deliver direct program services to Santa Barbara County.

### **Discussion:**

UCCE works as a contractor receiving funds from the County and handling all administrative and operational functions and paying those costs, including office space, vehicles, copying, telephone, etc. UCCE will also pay for supporting staff and associated benefits and retirement packages. This agreement is a regional approach to providing these services to Santa Barbara County.

University Advisors and paraprofessionals (program assistants) will provide consultation services to the County, including research-based training, educational guidance and access to beneficial University resources and will deliver direct program services for the following programs:

1. Applied research and Extension Education Programs in Agriculture and Natural Resources, Nutrition, Family & Consumer Sciences, and 4-H Youth Development:

#### **Agriculture & Natural Resources**

Improve productivity, competitiveness and overall viability of agriculture and related entities by conducting applied research and outreach programs to address these issues.

Programs will focus on:

- Applied research and educational/extension activities, including grower workshops serving English and Spanish-speaking clientele. May include applied research in:
  - Strawberry production;
  - Vegetable crops production.
  - Small farm crops, including fruit production and organics;
  - High-value berry crops;
  - Nurseries management and flower production;
  - Viticulture;
  - Avocado, Citrus and subtropicals;
  - Water quality, management, conservation and efficient use;
  - Assess potential new crops for Santa Barbara County;
  - Pest management, including integrated pest management practices.
  - Plant pathology and disease management;
  - Support for watershed function and natural resource issues on watersheds associated with rangelands;
  - Support for oak woodlands and rangeland issues including endangered species, noxious invasive weeds, wildland fires, grassland restoration (reseeding and brush management), forage production and ecology;
  - Support for the beef production industry including grazing management strategies; and
  - Support for the County Energy and Climate Action Plan through providing evidence-based information.

#### **Youth, Family, Nutrition and Community Programs**

Conduct a Master Gardener Program that includes education/extension activities in areas that may include:

- Home horticulture and food production;
- Community gardening as a means to increase community food security and health;
- Community gardening efforts that support environmentally sound practices;
- Support for school gardens and youth gardening efforts via 4-H and other youth-serving organizations and agencies;

- Helpline support for home and community gardeners that focuses on a wide range of issues, including food production, integrated pest management, and water use and conservation;
- Family-level pest identification and/or referrals to UC identification guides and literature; and
- Extend information about wildfire prevention.

#### **CalFresh Healthy Living, UC (CFHL, UC)/Other Nutrition Efforts**

- Leverage USDA funds to decrease childhood obesity and promote a healthy lifestyle by providing nutrition information to low-income school students in Santa Barbara County
- Conduct other childhood obesity prevention and healthy lifestyle programs by educating extenders working with populations of youth and families, particularly in Santa Barbara County

#### **4-H Youth Development**

- Outreach to Latino youth in Santa Barbara County
- Provide support for a 4-H community club program and special programs that will aim to serve at least 1400 youth in FY 24-25Support development and expansion of the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) ProgramCollaborate with CalFresh Healthy Living, UC and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department in Santa Barbara County by providing 4-H programming to increase youth advocacy for health in their communities and to provide youth programs during adult nutrition education classes

2. Collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and numerous other funding and project opportunities, and
3. Other programs as agreed to by the parties.

#### **Background:**

The State of California Education Code Section 32330 provides for the appropriation of County funds by the County Boards of Supervisors for the support of Cooperative Extension work in Agriculture and Natural Resources for the benefit of the County and in cooperation with the University. With the County's support, Cooperative Extension has served the people of Santa Barbara continuously for over ninety-five years.

#### **Performance Measures:**

UCCE will conduct applied research and education/extension activities, including grower workshops in a variety of areas which may include strawberry production, vegetable crops production, avocado, citrus and subtropical production, small farm crops, high value berry crops, nurseries management, viticulture and water quality, management, conservation and efficient use, integrated pest management practices, watershed functions, oak woodland and rangeland issues, beef production and grazing strategies.

UCCE will conduct a Master Gardener Program that provides information to the public in a variety of areas that may include home horticulture and food production, community gardening, school gardening, home gardening, pest identification and wildfire prevention.

UCCE will provide nutrition education to low-income families in Santa Barbara County.

UCCE will provide services to the participants in the 4-H Youth Development program and special programs that will serve the youth of Santa Barbara County.

UCCE will develop and expand the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) program.

UCCE will provide quarterly reports updating the Agricultural Commissioner on the status of these activities and other performance measures as mutually agreed upon.

#### **Contract Renewals:**

The contractor has a long history of providing professional-level programs under this agreement. Language regarding oversight of the agreement by the Department has been included in the agreement. All exceptions to standard terms have been reviewed by County Counsel, Auditor-Controller and Risk Management.

The following performance measures as defined in the original Fiscal Year (FY) 24/25 contract were met by UCCE. They were achieved on time, within budget and to required standards. Based on these outcomes, the County is proposing to renew the contract for FY 25/26.

- Improved productivity, competitiveness, and overall viability of agriculture and related entities by conducting applied research and outreach programs.
- Conducted a Master Gardener Program that includes education/extension activities to the public.
- Leveraged USDA funds to decrease childhood obesity and promote a healthy lifestyle by providing nutrition information to low-income school students in County.
- Conducted other childhood obesity prevention and healthy lifestyle programs by educating extenders working with populations of youth and families, particularly in North County.
- Outreached to Latino youth in Santa Barbara County.
- Provided support for a 4-H community club program and special programs which served at least 1400 youth in FY 25-26.
- Supported the development and expansion of the 4-H Science, Engineering and Technology (SET) Program.
- Collaborated with CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE and Santa Barbara County Public Health Department in Northern Santa Barbara County by providing 4-H programming which increased youth advocacy for health in their communities and provided youth programs during adult nutrition education classes.

#### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

#### **Fiscal Analysis:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY 2025-2026</b>	<b>Total</b>
General Fund	\$180,000.00	<b>\$180,000.00</b>
State		
Federal		
Fees		
[Other Source]		

<b>Total</b>	\$180,000.00	<b>\$180,000.00</b>
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Narrative: General Fund contribution.

This is an ongoing annual contract utilizing General Fund.

**Staffing Impacts:**

**NA**

**Special Instructions:**

Please execute the Standard Agreement and send one of the (2) signed originals to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office along with a minute order. Once fully executed by all parties, an original will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Board for filing.

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – UC Cooperative Extension Agreement FY 25/26

**Contact Information:**

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