

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**



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

**Agenda Number:**  
**Prepared on:** 01/04/02  
**Department Name:** Agricultural Commissioner  
**Department No.:** 051  
**Agenda Date:** January 22, 2002  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** William D. Gillette  
Agricultural Commissioner/Director

**STAFF CONTACT:** David Chang  
681-5600

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Memorandum of Understanding authorizing County participation in the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner to execute the Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment A) which approves the participation of Santa Barbara County in a cooperative agreement along with the Santa Barbara County Cattlemen's Association, Santa Barbara Chapter of the Audubon Society, the California Native Plant Society, City of Santa Barbara, and various other public and private agencies; and subsequent Memorandum of Understandings for this purpose.

The purpose of the MOU is to establish the Santa Barbara County Weed Management Area (SBCWMA) and define the terms and conditions under which the SBCWMA will cooperate and coordinate activities necessary to prevent the introduction, establishment and spread of harmful non-native weeds in Santa Barbara County.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 4: A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable.

**Executive Summary and Discussion:**

SB 1740 appropriates \$5,000,000 from the State General Fund to establish a Noxious Weed Management Account within the California Dept of Food and Agriculture's budget for distribution throughout California and specifies the purposes for which these funds may be spent. The bill requires that the weed management area shall function under the authority of a mutually developed memorandum of understanding.

Approval of this Memorandum of Understanding will enable the department to coordinate services to control harmful non-native weeds through the establishment of a weed management area. Weed management areas have been established in 53 counties in California and in other western states. A weed management area is a coalition of agencies, special interest groups, individuals, and businesses concerned with stopping the spread of harmful non-native weeds. A weed management area is unique in that it brings together the environmental community with the agricultural community to work together on a common purpose.

The mission of the weed management area is to increase the quality and quantity of noxious exotic weed control projects by conducting specific weed control projects and by coordinating the activities of land managers affected by noxious exotic weeds. In addition to control projects, the weed management area will conduct public outreach activities to educate and influence the industry and public on the issues, and map exotic weeds to assist in evaluating the problem and a project's success.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

Staffing requirements are met through an existing contract with the State Department of Food and Agriculture.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

No fiscal impacts.

**Special Instructions:**

Please return a minute order authorizing the Agricultural Commissioner to execute the contract.

**Concurrence:**

County Counsel