



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Santa Barbara, CA 93101
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Department Name:

Agricultural Commissioner

N/A

Department Number:

051

Continued Item:

No

Agenda Date:

July 7, 2026

If Yes, date from:

<Insert Date>

Placement:

Administrative Agenda

Vote Required:

Majority

Estimated Time:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jose Chang, Commissioner/Director



CONTACT: Lottie Martin, Assistant Commissioner or Kendra Stites or Anthony Ponce-Estrada, Admin.

SUBJECT: Regents of the University Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Agreement FY 26/27

Concurrences:

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk Management

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, 2026, through June 30, 2027, in the amount of \$185,000.00; 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 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.
- Support for the County Energy and Climate Action Plan through providing evidence-based information.
- Disaster Resilience.

Nutrition, Family, and Consumer Services

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.
- Pest identification and management in the home garden.
- Wildfire prevention and home hardening.

As funding is available, provide Nutrition and Community Health programming which may include:

- Leverage USDA funds to inspire and empower under-served County residents to improve their health by promoting awareness, education, and community change through diverse partnerships, resulting in healthy eating and active living.
- Conduct other nutrition and food resource management efforts to reduce food waste, increase food safety, and improve food security in the County.

4-H Youth Development

- Provide support for the 4-H youth development program that will aim to serve at least 750 youth in FY 26-27.
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 County continuously for over ninety-five years.

Performance Measure:


UCCE shall submit to the County for County’s approval quarterly reports summarizing programs delivered during the past quarter including actual expenditures when available. These reports will be due by the last day of the first month of the following quarter. The report must include a summary of the program services provided, a list of UCCE personnel who provided the program services, and the performance measure outcomes obtained as a result of the provided services agreed to by the UCCE and the Count.

UCCE will appoint, assign, supervise, and pay the salaries and benefits of the professional staff of academic Advisors to perform agreed upon educational and applied research programs in Santa Barbara County. The number of Advisors shall be determined by UCCE and shall be conditioned upon the availability of funds and the continued financial support of such program by the County except that at no time during the term of this Agreement shall the number of Advisors providing program services within Santa Barbara County fall below three. UCCE shall also assign paraprofessional staff to assist the Advisors providing program services within Santa Barbara County to ensure the smooth operation of the programs contemplated by this Agreement. The UCCE at its discretion may assign and pay the salaries of other staff for special programs

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.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

This  contract is budgeted for 26/27

General Fund contribution.

This is an ongoing annual contract utilizing General Fund.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY [26/27]	FY [fiscal year 2]	FY [fiscal year 3]	Total
General Fund	\$185,000			\$185,000
State				
Federal				
Fees				
[Other Source]				
Total				

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Staffing Impacts:

N/A

Special Instructions:

Please execute the 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 26/27

Contact Information:

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