

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources

Office of the Associate Vice President

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March 27, 2014

Steve Lavagnino
Fifth District Supervisor, Chair
511 E. Lakeside Parkway, Suite 141
Santa Maria, CA 93455-1341

Dear Supervisor Lavagnino:

I understand that it is once again time to review the county contract that supports the University of California Cooperative Extension in Santa Barbara County. I want to provide some information that may be helpful in informing the discussion and offer to participate in any way that might be useful.

The successful partnership between Santa Barbara County and UC Cooperative Extension dates back to 1920 with the appointment of the first Farm Advisor, Dr. Thomas Batchelder. This partnership has resulted in significant benefits to the County of Santa Barbara in agricultural advancements, natural resource management, youth development, nutrition education and other fields. Current achievements are reported on a quarterly basis, and provide specific examples of the many and varied activities undertaken by our local Extension academics and staff for the benefit of Santa Barbara's communities.

The current programmatic efforts in the County include:

Agriculture- Plant Sciences and Horticulture Research and Education Programs

- Avocado and other subtropical plant production
- Entomology
- Integrated pest management for pests (insect, weed) and diseases
- Small farms, specialty crops and organic production
- Soil and water management
- Viticulture

Fire Ecology and Management

- Analysis of fuel management techniques and their sustainability and efficacy
- Mapping of fire weather patterns
- Linkages between fire and climate change
- Fire related policy education
- Planning and home considerations to reduce fire risk

Master Gardener Program

Training provided to volunteers who, in turn, provide education/information to homeowners/gardeners

Programs impact pest management, water management and conservation, food production, etc.

Master Gardener volunteers are often on the front line of detecting harmful and invasive pests as they enter the County

4-H Youth Development Programs

Over the past two years, the program has added more than 400 new youth members and more than 120 new adult volunteers.

The Program currently engages more than 800 youth in educational and community service programs throughout the County.

The Program also reaches over 4,000 youth through the educational activities of the 4-H Agua Pura environmental education program.

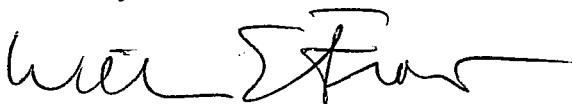
The 4-H Youth Development Program effectively engages Santa Barbara County youth through hands-on experiential learning projects, enabling them to emerge as leaders in their communities.

All of this is possible due to the effective partnership of the County and the University of California Cooperative Extension. As is well known, this partnership is reflected in the provision of support funds provided by the County and the provision of Cooperative Extension staff and access to University academic resources, statewide programs, etc. by the University.

It is important to note that County funds to the University in support of Cooperative Extension are critical to the continuation of this highly successful partnership. The UC Cooperative Extension Program in the County is contingent upon a mutually agreed upon partnership agreement. Local programs have continued with county-contracted funds of \$153,000, representing 13% of the total UCCE funding in Santa Barbara County in FY 2013/2014. We are finding increases in our costs of business that necessitate requesting an increase in our county contract to \$162,000. With all other sources held constant, this increase would represent 14% of our total program budget.

I sincerely hope that we can continue the longstanding successful partnership of the County of Santa Barbara and UC Cooperative Extension. I'm willing to participate in any discussions where I might be able to provide additional information and value. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance at either (530) 750-1312 or wefrost@ucanr.edu.

Sincerely,



William E. Frost
Associate Vice President

c: UCCE County Director Mary Bianchi