



**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

Department Name: Agriculture/Weights & Measures
Department No.: 051
For Agenda Of: March 18, 2014
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: 4/5

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Cathy Fisher, 681-5600
Director(s)
Contact Info: Guy Tingos or Kendra Stites, 681-5600
SUBJECT: Funding an Unfunded Agricultural Biologist - all districts

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Human Resources

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve the budget revision request of the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights & Measures Department to increase revenue (LI 4000) in the amount of \$26,453 from unanticipated unclaimed gas tax revenue and to increase expenditures in salaries and benefits (LI 6100) in the same amount.

Summary Text:

The Department will allocate \$26,453 to salaries and benefits (LI 6100) to fund an existing, unfunded Agricultural Biologist position for the remainder of FY 13-14 with no impact to the General Fund. Future funding for the position will come from a combination of revenue sources: unclaimed gas tax, pesticide mil tax, and state/federal revenue contracts.

Background:

The Department needs to fill the position to meet the increasing demand for services. Loss of staff due to one biologist leaving County employment and 2 others taking extended leaves have jeopardized the Department's ability to do so. In addition, one of the employees on leave will only be returning as a .6 FTE. Activities in jeopardy include conducting pesticide use monitoring inspections, inspecting plant shipments for invasive pests, and issuing Phytosanitary certificates that enable local farmers to ship their

product to other states and other countries. The loss of staff also jeopardizes the ability of the Department to meet its Maintenance of Effort (MOE) agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture as specified in the California Food and Agricultural Code Section 224.5(a)(3) that requires the County to “maintain county general fund support for agricultural commissioner services at least equal to the average amount expended for the five preceding fiscal years”. Failure to meet the MOE levels puts the Department’s major outside revenue source, the unclaimed gas tax, at risk.

Performance Measure:

Economic Vitality: the services provided by the Department are critical to the financial health of the agriculture industry.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>	<u>Restricted Line Item</u>
General Fund				
State	\$26,453	\$72,865		
Federal		\$4,160		
Fees				
Other:				
Total	\$ 26,453.00	\$ 77,025.00	\$ -	

Narrative:

The department will allocate \$26,453 to salaries and benefits to fund 1 Agricultural Biologist position at the entry level for the remainder of FY 13-14 and \$77,025 in successive years. There is no impact to the General Fund.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

1

Special Instructions:

Attachments:

BJE/BRR 0003268

Authored by:

Guy Tingos, Assistant Commissioner