

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
BOARD ACTION SUMMARY**

DEPT: Agricultural Commissioner

BOARD AGENDA: 5.B.7
AGENDA DATE: June 5, 2018

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Agricultural Commissioner to Enter Into and Sign Routine Contracts and Agreements with Various Federal and State Agencies for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-0259

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa Seconded by Supervisor Olsen
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Olsen, Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, and Chairman DeMartini

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None


1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: **PAM VILLARREAL, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**

File No.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Agricultural Commissioner

BOARD AGENDA:5.B.7
AGENDA DATE: June 5, 2018

CONSENT:

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Approval for the Agricultural Commissioner to Enter Into and Sign Routine Contracts and Agreements with Various Federal and State Agencies for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner (or designee) to enter into and sign routine contracts and agreements with various Federal and State agencies for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

DISCUSSION:

The Department has many routine and long-standing contracts. It is requested that in order to increase the efficiency of government operations and expedite the processing of these contracts and agreements, the Agricultural Commissioner (or designee) be authorized to enter into and sign routine contracts and agreements for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and multi-year contracts that include Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

The following is a listing of long-standing and anticipated contracts for Fiscal Years 2017-2018, 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.

California Department of Food and Agriculture:

High Risk Program

The contract for the High Risk Program covers reimbursement for inspection at airfreight facilities, nurseries, parcel terminals or other facilities of incoming high risk shipments of plant material from outside of California with particular focus on Hawaii, Florida and other southern states. Inspection work will include checking packages for quarantine compliance and inspecting for high risk pests, not known to occur in California, such as the Japanese Beetle, Gypsy Moth and Longhorn Beetle. Inspectors will also inspect shipments of fruits, vegetables and propagative plant material for all pests. The program requires the County to maintain records of inspections and pest finds, issue notices of rejection if necessary and notify the Interior Pest Exclusion Program of the presence of any significant pest finds. Under this contract, the County agrees to perform high risk inspection and enforcement activities for the California Department of Food and Agriculture in compliance with the requirements imposed by

Statutes of 2000, Chapter 573, Section 3 and Food and Agricultural Code Section 2282.5. The total revenue anticipated for the High Risk Inspection Program is estimated at \$7,910.

Light Brown Apple Moth

Light Brown Apple Moth, also known as LBAM, is an exotic pest native to Australia with a host range of over 250 fruits and vegetables including apples, grapes, corn and tomatoes. In grapes the larvae feed on buds, flower cluster and berries causing reduced crop yields and an increase in disease. To confirm that areas of the state are free from LBAM, traps are placed alongside existing detection traps. Since the spring of 2007, County Agricultural Commissioners have been performing LBAM trapping activities. Trapping activity for the detection of LBAM is a crucial program in order to protect the County's valuable agricultural resource. The total contract amount is estimated to be \$17,943.

Organic Program

In order for a person to sell food represented as organic in California, they must be registered with the Agricultural Commissioner in the county of their principal operation. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will reimburse the County of Stanislaus for the cost of organic activities (i.e. organic inspections, organic sampling, organic registration, organic registration renewal and investigation of complaints). The contract is estimated to be \$6,810. Estimated revenue in the amount of \$2,810 will be included in the Agricultural Commissioners Budget Year 2018-2019 Final Budget to reflect this agreement, since this is the amount which the Agricultural Commissioner realistically estimates to receive.

Standardization

Under the Standardization Program, the County of Stanislaus agrees to provide fruit and vegetable inspection services. Inspectors will visit retail sites, packing sheds, wholesale locations as well as flea markets, fruit stands and field locations. Fruits and vegetables such as tomatoes, watermelon, apricots and cantaloupe melons will be checked to ensure that quality standards and packing requirements are met. Examples of quality standards are sugar content level, color percentage and lack of defects. Packing requirements are specific to commodities and include containers marked with the appropriate information. This contract provides reimbursement for inspection hours and mileage costs. The contract amount is estimated to be \$36,000.

Certified Farmers Markets

To protect the integrity of the certified farmers' markets as well as the use of the term "California Grown", it is unlawful for any person or entity to make any false, deceptive, or misleading statements or representations relating to the sale or availability of agricultural products. To encourage the direct sale by farmers to the public of all types of California agricultural products, while ensuring that the sale of these products is done without fraud, deception, or misrepresentation, the California Secretary of Agriculture

enters into a cooperative agreement with county agricultural commissioners to conduct inspections of certified farmers' markets.

This cooperative agreement provides funding for the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner to conduct inspections of market sites and inspections of the production sites of the certified producers. This agreement is estimated to be \$7,000.

Nematode Inspection

This contract facilitates a unified and cooperative program to address the Nematode (a microscopic parasitic worm) control component required by the Food and Agricultural Code for nursery stock sold for farm planting. The Nematode Inspection Program protects agricultural growers and the public from pests associated with nursery stock. The contract provides funding for the Agricultural Commissioner to perform soil treatment and commodity treatment supervision and/or soil sampling as required by the laws and regulations pertaining to Nematode Inspection. The total contract amount is estimated to be \$3,600.

Nursery Inspection

The State of California contracts with the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner to maintain the Nursery Stock Inspection Program. In accordance with Division 4 and 18 of the Food and Agricultural Code and Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, the Agricultural Commissioner will perform inspections of nursery stock at all county producer and wholesale nursery locations.

The Nursery Stock Inspection Program ensures that nursery stock meets pest cleanliness standards. Nursery stock should not be infested with pests of economic importance or more than the established threshold considered to be "commercially clean," or with any significant pest not known to occur or not established in California. If infested, a nursery is a vehicle for the rapid spread of pests since shipments of plants are distributed over a wide geographical area for planting. Stanislaus County is one of the leading counties in the state for both commercial plantings of fruit and nut trees and producer nurseries of such trees. Nursery inspections are thus extremely important to the economic health of the County's agriculture. The Agricultural Commissioner also investigates any nursery complaints and enforces nursery stock licensing requirements for all new nursery operations within the county. The contract amount is estimated to be \$24,586.

Pest Detection

The goal of the Stanislaus County Pest Detection Program is to detect insect pests before they can cause infestation or damage to residential and agricultural areas. This program protects California agriculture, the local economy and homeowners' fruit-bearing trees and plants. In addition to Agricultural Inspectors, employees of the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office who primarily work in this program are Agricultural Assistants, also known as "insect trappers" or "trappers." These trappers work in both rural and urban areas of Stanislaus County placing insect

traps in trees and plants. Trappers inspect the traps on a regular basis to see if any of the targeted insect pests they are looking for have been trapped. The early detection of insects can help to ensure that an infestation is prevented. Some of the insects which trappers try to detect are: Caribbean Fruit Fly, Mexican Fruit Fly, Oriental Fruit Fly, Mediterranean Fruit Fly, Melon Fruit Fly, Guava Fruit Fly, Gypsy Moth, and Japanese Beetle. If an insect of concern is found, the California Department of Food and Agriculture assists the County program by providing additional personnel to help put a more intensive trapping program in place for a specified duration of time. If necessary, the State will also assist in the eradication of these insects if they are found. The Pest Detection contract with the California Department of Food and Agriculture reimburses the County for personnel, equipment and vehicle expenditures associated with the program. This program is vital to the protection of local and state agriculture by preventing the introduction of unwanted and injurious pests. The total contract amount is estimated to be \$218,192.

Glassy- Winged Sharpshooter Program

The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter insect is a vector of the devastating grapevine disease known as Pierce's Disease. The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter feeds on the inner parts of grapevines and infects the plant with the bacterium that causes Pierce's Disease, causing the vine to die within three years.

The Agricultural Commissioner's efforts to combat the detrimental effect of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter insect and the associated destructive Pierce's Disease include visual inspections of all plants arriving at retail nurseries from Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter quarantine areas, annual visual surveys of wholesale production nurseries, and placing and servicing traps designed to detect the presence of the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter. The Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Program is critical for the protection of the agricultural industry in Stanislaus County. This contract provides for the supplies and personnel services required to continue an ongoing detection program. The Department anticipates receiving a two-year contract that will cover Fiscal Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 for the estimated amount of \$247,543 each fiscal year.

Asian Citrus Psyllid

Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is an insect about the size of an aphid and is a vector for the transmission of Huanglongbing (HLB) disease. HLB is considered one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world as it causes trees to produce inedible fruit and results in the eventual death of infected trees. This disease has been responsible for nearly destroying the citrus industry in China, other parts of Asia and Brazil. It is also causing great concern in Florida as that state's citrus industry struggles to survive, losing an estimated 162,000 acres of citrus to the disease since 2007. While ACP has been found in a number of counties in California, at this point the HLB disease has only been found in the Los Angeles area.

This disease could have a devastating effect on not only the citrus production in Stanislaus County but the local nurseries and the thousands of residential citrus trees found throughout the county.

The Agricultural Commissioner anticipates the California Department of Food and Agriculture will continue with the request that Stanislaus County conduct a year-round trapping program for ACP and will enter into a new agreement with Stanislaus County in October of 2018 and it is estimated that the amount of this agreement will be \$134,383. In addition to the trapping agreement, there is an agreement to conduct investigations in the event of a pest find. These would include trace back and trace forward activities to minimize the spread of ACP. The Department estimates that this agreement will be \$4,811.

European Grapevine Moth

The European Grapevine Moth is considered to be a pest of economic importance to grapes but it will also feed on olives, cherries, nectarines, plums, and blackberries. While this insect has recently been eradicated from California, the cost of the eradication effort reached \$100 million in Napa County alone. Early detection is a key to reducing the costs of an eradication effort and so the California Department of Food and Agriculture has entered into an agreement with counties to conduct a trapping program for this insect. The amount of the agreement is estimated to be \$24,555 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and \$14,536 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for a total amount of \$39,091.

Seed Inspections

Agricultural Commissioners enforce the California Seed Law through inspections of registered seed firms and distribution centers. The labels of seed lots are evaluated for compliance with the California Seed Law. The estimated amount of this agreement is \$8,132.

In addition, through the California Crop Improvement Association in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Agricultural Commissioners supervise the harvesting, cleaning, and packaging of any seed eligible for certification, sample such seeds and provide other services as necessary to maintain the identity and quality of certified seed. This agreement is for \$500.

Petroleum Products Inspection

The Petroleum Products contract stipulates that the County will be reimbursed for initial inspections of establishments selling or distributing petroleum products. An initial inspection is the first inspection in the fiscal year of a location where the primary business is the sale of petroleum products (i.e., retail service stations, distributors of engine fuels, oils and quick-lube shops). These inspections, conducted by Stanislaus County Weights and Measures Inspectors, include verification of compliance with the Business and Professions Code and California Code of Regulations relating to the

advertising and labeling of automotive and petroleum products at the location. The agreement will pay Stanislaus County \$9,675.

Weighmaster Enforcement Junk Dealers and Recyclers

This agreement will fund Stanislaus County for inspections at junk dealer and recycle locations. To deter fraudulent transactions at junk dealers and recyclers, and decrease the sale of stolen metal property, each location must be inspected after licensure to ensure that the information contained on the weighmaster application is materially accurate. The estimated cooperative agreement amount is \$5,280. Estimated revenue in the amount of \$4,800 will be included in the Agricultural Commissioners Budget Year 2018-2019 Final Budget to reflect this agreement, since this is the amount which the Agricultural Commissioner realistically estimates to receive.

California Department of Pesticide Regulation:

Pesticide Use Reporting

Since Fiscal Year 1990-1991, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation has contracted with Stanislaus County for the electronic submittal of Pesticide Use Reports. Under this program, Stanislaus County receives the Pesticide Use Reports and enters the data in a format which is readily accessible to the State. The current contract provides that information on both agricultural and non-agricultural chemical usage will be available to the State of California. The contract amount is estimated to be \$27,104.

United States Department of Agriculture:

Wildlife Services

This agreement provides for animal damage management on properties within Stanislaus County and includes the expenditure of County funds for the services of a Wildlife Services Specialist. The Wildlife Specialist, employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, works to reduce, terminate and prevent predation and damage to livestock, crops and other property caused by damaging birds and mammals. This is a critical program for the protection of agriculture in Stanislaus County and provides a much needed service for affected landowners. This agreement represents expenditure for Stanislaus County with no corresponding offsetting revenue. The County's cooperative share for the services of the Wildlife Services Specialist is requested at \$80,400.

Other State of California Contracts:

California Highway Patrol

This contract ensures that the CHP has a place for scale certification within the State of California and it provides the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer with an additional source of revenue for its weights and measures activities. The current contract covers a two-year period through the end of Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and is \$40,000. The Department realistically estimates receiving \$5,600 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 based on scales tested in previous years.

California Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation contract for Stanislaus County to perform the required annual testing of axle-load scales used by the Department of Transportation was previously approved by the Board of Supervisors and runs through December 31, 2018. The Department anticipates that this contract will be renewed for a term of three to four years and a dollar value of \$15,000. Estimated revenue in the amount of \$3,700 will be included in the Agricultural Commissioner's Budget Year 2018-2019 Final Budget to reflect the actual number of scales tested in previous years.

POLICY ISSUE:

Since the Department has many routine and long standing contracts, it is requested that in order to increase the efficiency of government operations and expedite the processing of the contracts and agreements, the Agricultural Commissioner (or designee) be authorized to enter into and sign routine contracts and agreements for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and multi-year contracts that include Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The contracts and agreements detailed in this item represent approximately \$24,555 for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, \$783,305 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019, and \$247,543 for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Revenue estimates are included in the program discussion. The Federal contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture represents an expenditure of \$80,400 for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to fund the services of a Wildlife Services Specialist employed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This Wildlife Services Specialist works to reduce and prevent predation and damage to livestock, crops, and other property caused by damaging birds and mammals.

Estimated revenues and expenditures associated with Fiscal Year 2018-2019 contracts were included the Agricultural Commissioner's Proposed Budget.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action is consistent with the Board's priorities of *Developing a Healthy Economy* and *Delivering Efficient Public Services & Community Infrastructure* through increased efficiencies in processing long standing contracts and agreements that protect and support the local agricultural community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing Agricultural Commissioner staff will perform the required activities for these contracts and agreements.

CONTACT PERSON:

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