

12. Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner, including any supplemental materials, and take related actions, as outlined in the referenced budget documents, and as recommended by the County Executive Officer ()



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Agricultural Commissioner

Subject: 2025-26 Proposed Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

Formal Title: Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner, including any supplemental materials, and take related actions, as outlined in the referenced budget documents, and as recommended by the County Executive Officer

Recommended Action

Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner, including any supplemental materials, as provided in the referenced budget documents:

- [Proposed Budget](#)
- [Continuing Agreements List](#)
- [Unified Fee Schedule](#)
- Presentation

Executive Summary

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner supports three divisions: Agricultural Code Enforcement, Weights & Measures, and Mosquito & Vector Control, with funded staffing of 26.8 funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Discussion

The mission of the Agricultural Commissioner is to serve the public's interest by ensuring equity in the marketplace, promoting and protecting agriculture, assuring environmental quality, and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Santa Cruz County's citizens. Department and division operational objectives are shown in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget document and 2025-27 Operational Plan. Both are available online at: www.SCCVision.us

The Agricultural Commissioner Proposed Budget includes negotiated salary and benefit increases. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, there are no major anticipated reductions in state or federal funding, and the budget reflects no significant operational or service changes.

Funded staffing of 26.8 FTE positions remains status quo for FY 2025-26.

Budgeted funding will continue to support ongoing staff work, including enforcing State regulatory requirements for commercial pesticide sales, possession, and use within the county and investigating non-compliances; working contractually with the California Department of Food and Agriculture on multiple programs to protect valuable crops and natural areas from economically damaging pests; ensuring equity in the marketplace through our Weights and Measures enforcement program; and protecting the health of Santa Cruz County's citizens through proactive mitigation of human disease vectors such as mosquitos, ticks and rodents.

Over the next fiscal year, the department will be focused primarily on mitigating the potential entry and spread of invasive mosquito species capable of transmitting human disease and agricultural/landscape/forestry pests of quarantine concern; maintaining

high levels of outreach to our fieldworker community and the public with respect to pesticide education and safety; and working toward testing and registering commercial weighing and measuring devices, including electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), while continuing our efforts at cost recovery for these services.

Financial Impact

The Agricultural Commissioner Proposed Budget includes \$6,758,398 in expenditures offset by \$5,206,532 in revenues, \$1,429,972 in General Fund contributions, and \$121,894 in Other Fund contributions. This reflects a total expenditure decrease of \$955,471 or 12% from the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Communications & Education

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Climate Action - Natural & Working Lands

Submitted By:

David Sanford, Ag Commissioner

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.



Agricultural Commissioner

2025-26

Proposed Budget

David Sanford

Agricultural
Commissioner/Sealer of
Weights & Measures/Director
of Mosquito & Vector Control

June 4, 2025



Presentation Overview



Our Mission



How We are Organized



Budget Overview



Fiscal & Staffing Details



Federal/State risks & Emerging Issues



Request & Questions



Our Mission

The mission of the Agricultural Commissioner is to serve the public's interest by ensuring equity in the marketplace, promoting and protecting agriculture, assuring environmental quality, and protecting the health, safety and welfare of Santa Cruz County's citizens.

State & Federal Funding Risks



- State Funding - Contract reductions on work agreements with CDFA (CA Department of Food and Agriculture) due to state budget shortfalls. So far, reductions are minimal.
- Federal Funding - Potential for reductions to some state contracts which include federal pass-through funding due to cuts at the federal level (USDA cuts in the Farm Bill).
- Potential impacts from state/federal funding losses in other County Departments.

Divisions & Services

Our Services



Agricultural Code Enforcement

- Pest Detection
- High Risk Pest Exclusion
- Pesticide Use Enforcement
- Nursery Inspection
- Farmers Market/Direct Marketing Regulation
- Crop Statistics
- Organic Registration



Weights & Measures

- Consumer protection
- Maintain economic equity
- Regulates the accuracy of:
 - Retail pricing
 - Gas pumps
 - Scales
 - Utility submeters
 - Taxi meters
 - Product packaging



Mosquito & Vector Control

(Funded by CSA53s)

- Mosquito Control
- Vector-borne disease surveillance
- Tick ID
- Rodent Exclusion Insp.
- Outreach



Agricultural Commissioner


Summary of Proposed Budget

	2024-25 Adopted	2025-26 Proposed	Amount of Change	Percent Change
Revenues	\$5,696,300	\$5,206,532	\$489,768	(9%)
Expenses	\$7,713,869	\$6,758,398	\$955,471	(12%)
General Fund Contribution	\$1,323,304	\$1,429,972*	\$106,668	8%
Other Fund Contribution	\$694,265	\$121,894	\$572,371	(82%)
Funded Staffing	26.81	26.81	0.00	0%



Amounts shown (other than GF contribution) reflect a factor as calculated in the OpenGov program of CSA funds for the MVC Division which accounts for the funds twice - when they are received and again when transferred - thereby inflating the actual amounts received/expensed.

*This amount is \$2,500 less than proposed GF contribution amount.

Major Budget Changes from Adopted Revenues

Amount Title of change in revenue		
	\$ 300,000	Benefit assessment study & contract (MVC).

Major Budget Changes from Adopted Expenses

	Amount	Title of change in expenditure/expense
	\$ 94,300	Lease cost from previous South County office location.
	\$ 326,990	GSD services and charges.

Emerging Issues

- Invasive mosquito species & new benefit assessment goal.
- Changes/reallocation of resource priorities by CDFA on certain programs (e.g., GWSS, ACP).
- ISHB - Felton area infestation; collaboration with UCCE; potential CISAC funds.
- Canada phytosanitary import requirement changes (berries, LBAM).
- EVSE - device testing and registration.



Agricultural Commissioner

Approve the Proposed Budget for the Agricultural Commissioner Department, which includes:

- Revenues of \$5,206,532
- Expenses of \$6,758,398
- General Fund Contribution of \$1,429,972
- Other Funds Contribution of \$121,89
- Staffing of 26.81 funded FTEs

