

13. Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for Agricultural Extension, 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 Extension

Subject: Proposed 2025-26 Budget for Agricultural Extension

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

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

- [Proposed Budget](#)

Executive Summary

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Agricultural Extension supports funded staffing of 1.0 funded full-time equivalent (FTE) position.

Discussion

The mission of the University of California Cooperative Extension (Agricultural Extension) is to enhance the quality of life and the environmental and economic well-being of the citizens of California through research and education. Cooperative Extension farm, natural resources, 4-H, and nutrition, family and consumer sciences advisors extend knowledge and provide county research in more than 50 county offices in California.

Department 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 Extension Proposed Budget includes negotiated salary and benefit increase as well as a change in facility charges to properly reflect the cost of facility services and utilities. Staffing of 1.0 FTE position is status quo for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26.

Budgeted funding will continue to support ongoing staff work, including improving the natural resources of Santa Cruz County by providing knowledge based on sound science in various fields. The programs offered by the Agricultural Extension encompass a wide range of areas, including agriculture, irrigation and water management, organic agriculture, youth development, and climate change.

Over the next fiscal year, the department will be focused primarily on integrated management of soil pathogens in berries, production issues in berries, fire risk reduction in the forests of the Santa Cruz mountain, addressing invasive species in our fields and forests, and enhancing opportunities for local youth through the 4-H Youth Development program.

Financial Impact

The Agricultural Extension Proposed Budget includes \$167,992 in expenditures offset

by \$167,992 in General Fund contribution. This reflects a total expenditure increase of \$3,214 or 2.0% from the FY 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

Equity Framework - Plans, Policies & Budgets

Operational Plan - Sustainable Environment

Climate Action - Natural & Working Lands

Submitted By:

Mark Bolda, County Deputy Director of Agricultural Extension

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.