

Section 18

Agriculture & Cooperative Extension

Agricultural Commissioner UC Cooperative Extension



Agricultural Commissioner Cooperative Extension

◆ SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Instituted the issuance of multi-year permits for permanent crop growers with good compliance history to efficiently reduce hours spent issuing permits and shift resources to onsite visits and inspections.
- The efforts of the department enabled the agricultural industry to continue normal operations during the Light Brown Apple Moth quarantine.
- The department secured grant funding of over \$70,000 from the California Department of Fish and Game for various Weed Management Area project.

Agricultural Commissioner Cooperative Extension

♣ SERVICE LEVEL REDUCTIONS

Leaving biologist positions vacant will result in less pesticide inspections and the inability to conduct training and provide educational outreach in the pesticide use enforcement program. This will also result in decreased revenue for unrefunded gas tax estimated at \$0.40/dollar.

♣ LAYOFFS IN RECOMMENDED BUDGET

IT, EDP Systems and Programming Analyst II, (1) layoff (Local 620)
Pesticide Use Enforcement, Biologists, (2) unfunded (Local 620)

Budget Expansion Request

- ♣ This request is to implement a tri-county service delivery system for Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties.
- ♣ This arrangement will provide more resources for agricultural, Master Gardener and 4-H programs in Santa Barbara County.
- ♣ This \$68,300 request would increase UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) funding from the proposed budget for FY 2010-11 of \$111,700 to \$180,000.
- ♣ UCCE leverages other sources of funding and volunteer in-kind services, bringing dollars and value to Santa Barbara County. The amount of funding for F 2009 was \$637,312.

UCCE

- ⌘ Has served Santa Barbara County residents since 1927 in partnership with the USDA and County government.
- ⌘ Provides science-based research, technical expertise and educational programs in Agriculture, Natural Resources, Family, Nutrition and Consumer Sciences and 4-H Youth Development
- ⌘ UCCE provides Advisors who work with growers, helping assure the economic viability of agriculture in Santa Barbara County.

Current Arrangement

The County of Santa Barbara provides funding for administrative support staff (1 FTE – currently vacant), office space, supplies, and other charges including reprographics, vehicles and telephone services for three Santa Barbara County-based Advisors and one cross-county Advisor who operates in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

UCCE provides funding for Advisors who provide services in a variety of areas in agriculture (including production, specialty and small farm crop research and education, pests and plant disease); natural resources (marine); 4-H Youth Development; the Master Gardener Program; and the Food Stamp Nutrition and Education Program.

Proposed Arrangement

UCCE will work as a contractor, receiving funds from the County, and handling all administrative and operations functions and paying those costs, including office space, vehicles, copying, telephone, etc.

UCCE will pay for support staff and the associated benefits and retirement packages.

The contract will be managed by the Agriculture Commissioner's Office.

Proposed Arrangement

• The 4-H/Master Gardener Advisor currently working in Santa Barbara will report to the Ventura Office and provide services to southern Santa Barbara County and Ventura County.

• The two Farm Advisors currently located in Santa Maria will report to the San Luis Obispo Office and provide services to northern Santa Barbara County and San Luis Obispo County.

Proposed Arrangement

Four additional advisors in San Luis Obispo County will provide cross-county service in other program areas vital to Santa Barbara County, including viticulture and FSNEP.

Two additional advisors in the Ventura County Office will provide cross-county service in areas of high importance to Santa Barbara County agriculture, including nurseries; citrus, subtropicals and specialty crops; and soils and irrigation.

Although this will result in the closure of the Santa Barbara Cooperative Extension Offices, the UCCE Advisors will provide an enhanced level of services to Santa Barbara County.

Proposed Arrangement

UCCE is looking for ways to maximize program services and impacts and reduce its administrative footprint in the counties. A regional approach is one method to achieve this goal.

UCCE will realize some costs savings as a result of not filling the currently vacant .50 FTE director position allocated to Santa Barbara.

The County will have improved oversight and accountability through increased reporting of program activities.

The County will receive additional services.