



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 5/5/2020

Agenda Placement: 6L

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Tracy Cleveland for Humberto Izquierdo - Agricultural Commissioner
Agricultural Commissioner

REPORT BY: Jaspreet Faller, Staff Services Analyst II - 253-4973

SUBJECT: Approval of a new agreement with California Department of Food and Agriculture

RECOMMENDATION

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures requests approval and authorization for the Chair to sign an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for a maximum of \$38,017 for the term May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021 for reimbursement of expenditures associated with protecting the biodiversity of native ecosystems and abatement of noxious weed and other invasive plant infestations within the County of Napa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The authorization of this new revenue agreement with CDFA provides reimbursement to the County for surveying, mapping, manual removal of noxious weeds and invasive plants in partnership with the Napa County Resource Conservation District. This agreement provides \$16,298 for RCD and \$21,719 for the Agricultural Commissioner's control and removal of the noxious weeds within the County of Napa.

FISCAL & STRATEGIC PLAN IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	Yes
Where is it budgeted?	Agricultural Commissioner \$21,719; RCD will receive \$16,298 of this agreement monies.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Mandatory

Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	This agreement expires on December 31, 2021. The department has included their portion of the revenue in the FY20/21 requested budget.
Consequences if not approved:	If the agreement is not approved, the County will not be reimbursed for performing State mandated activities.
County Strategic Plan pillar addressed:	Vibrant and Sustainable Environment
Additional Information:	

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: General Rule. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant effect on the environment and therefore CEQA is not applicable. [See Guidelines For the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act, 14 CCR 15061(b)(3)].

Consideration and possible adoption of a Categorical Exemption Class 6: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. The project will not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern, has no cumulative impact, there is no reasonable possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, will not result in damage to scenic resources, is not located on a list of hazardous waste sites, cause substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or extract groundwater in excess of the Phase 1 groundwater extraction standards as set by the Department of Public Works. [See Class 6 ("Information Collection") which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15306.]

Consideration and possible adoption of a Categorical Exemption Class 8: It has been determined that this type of project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act. [See Class 8 ("Actions by Regulatory Agencies for Protection of the Environment") which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act at 14 CCR §15308.]

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

This agreement provides for the reimbursement of costs associated with the mapping, survey and abatement of noxious weeds and invasive plants throughout the County of Napa. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office will work with RCD to implement the program. In addition, two workshops will be designed and delivered to two separate audiences to raise awareness of invasive plants and their impact on local ecosystems and the economy.

The program will consist of developing a survey, mapping and removal for rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) within the Napa/Yountville area. Develop a survey and mapping of artichoke thistle (*Cynara cardunculus*) within areas of South Napa. Explore different non-chemical control strategies, which would benefit ranchers who run cattle on the land and would enhance native plant populations and biodiversity. The program also reimburses for survey and mapping of waterways in Napa County (via drone) for the presence of saltcedar (*Tamarix sp.*) and arundo (*Arundo donax*). Survey and removal work for these species was last completed in 2007, and these weeds have overtaken many waterways.

In addition, RCD and the Agricultural Commissioner's Office will work with local and management agencies and contractors to compile noxious weed data to help prioritize weed management issues, help revitalize the Napa County Weed Management Area and foster cooperation with public and private homeowners.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Ben Guerrieri