



Office of  
**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

**Agricultural Commissioner**  
Henry S. Gonzales

555 Airport Way, Suite E  
Camarillo, CA 93010  
Telephone: (805) 388-4343  
FAX: (805) 388-4331

October 20, 2015

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

**SUBJECT: Approval of, and Authorization for the County Executive Officer or Designee to sign, a Memorandum of Agreement with the California Avocado Commission for Development and Implementation of a Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer Trapping Program; Ratification of Provision of Services Under that Agreement (4/5THS VOTE REQUIRED FOR RECOMMENDATION NO. 3)**

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Approve, and authorize the County Executive Officer or designee to sign, the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the California Avocado Commission (MOA) for the development and implementation of a polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) trapping program (Exhibit 1).
2. Ratify the provision of services by the Agricultural Department under the MOA.
3. Authorize the Auditor-Controller's Office to process the necessary accounting transactions to increase revenue and appropriations as follows (**REQUIRES 4/5THS VOTE**):

Budget Unit: 2840 AGR Pest Exclusion Quarantine

INCREASE Revenue Line 9501	\$62,500
INCREASE Salaries and Benefits	\$48,200
INCREASE Services and Supplies	\$14,300

**REASON FOR RATIFICATION:**

In the fiscal year 2015-2016 budget, the Agricultural Department noted that it had recently undertaken a PSHB detection and trapping program but had yet to determine the workload for that program. The California Avocado Commission is a state agency created to protect and promote California's avocado industry. The PSHB is dangerous to avocados and the California Avocado Commission agreed in principle to fund a PSHB program. To secure the benefits of early detection and the agreement discussed in this letter that might otherwise have been lost, the Agriculture Department has been implementing the PSHB program as contemplated by the parties while the parties undertook steps necessary to allow California Avocado Commission to disburse funds, including drafting and execution of the attached MOA.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Mandatory: No  
Source of Funding: California Avocado Commission  
Funding Match Required: No  
Impact on Other Departments: None  
Approved MOA amount: \$62,500

<u>Summary of Revenue and Total Costs</u>	<u>FY 2015/16</u>	<u>FY 2016/17</u>
Revenue	\$ 62,500	\$0
Costs:		
Direct	\$ 62,500	\$0
Indirect-Agency Dept.	\$ 0	\$0
Indirect-County Cap	\$ 0	\$0
Total Costs:	\$ 62,500	\$0
Net Costs:	\$ 0	\$0

**Current Budget FY 2015-2016**

<b>FY 2015-2016 ADOPTED BUDGET FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER</b>				
	Preliminary Budget	Adjusted Budget	Projected Actual	Estimated Savings/(Deficit)
Appropriations	4,746,967	4,746,967	4,746,967	0
Revenue	3,646,967	3,646,967	3,646,967	0
Net Cost	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	0

This is a full cost recovery agreement with no fiscal impact.

**DISCUSSION:**

The PSHB (*Euwallacea* sp.) is a very serious agricultural pest. The PSHB has a symbiotic relationship with a new species of fungi. This new species of fungi (*Fusarium*) has no fruiting bodies, and so far, is only known to be spread by the PSHB beetle. The PSHB carries the fungus into the plant host and feeds on the fungus. A recent discovery is that another fungus, a new *Graphium* spp. has been found associated with PSHB. The *Fusarium* grows faster than the *Graphium*, but both grow together. Larvae feed on the *Graphium* sp. but not the *Fusarium*. The fungus damages the vascular tissue of the tree, stopping nutrient and water flow. This stresses the tree, causing dieback and can eventually kill the entire tree.

This invasive pest attacks hundreds of different agricultural, ornamental, and wildland tree species, including avocados, oaks and sycamores. The County of Ventura is the number one avocado producing county in the nation. In 2013, Ventura County produced 113,406 tons of avocados on 20,121 acres for a value of \$209,723,000. Avocado production in Ventura County provides thousands of local jobs and a significant boost to the local economy. In 2013, avocados were the county's number two crop behind strawberries.

Under the agreement in principle, our office has collaborated with the California Avocado Commission and the University of California Cooperative Extension, in conducting a PSHB trapping program throughout the County. This program includes the placement and monitoring of traps in select sites based on established criteria and risk potential, which will serve to alert us when and where the PSHB enters the County. The PSHB has not yet been detected in Ventura County but has infested parts of neighboring Los Angeles County. In fact, in June of this year, PSHB was detected 4 to 7 miles from the county line. Early detection through the PSHB trapping program will allow us the potential to quickly take measures to slow if not stop the PSHB and to monitor any expansion of the infestation.

The County Executive Office, Auditor-Controller's Office and County Counsel have reviewed this item. If you have any questions, please contact Henry Gonzales, Agricultural Commissioner, at 388-4343, extension 2.



Henry S. Gonzales  
Agricultural Commissioner

Exhibit 1 – Memorandum of Agreement