



# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 7/28/2020

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File #: 20-912

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Agricultural Commissioner

**Agenda Section:** Consent

**SUBJECT:**

Approval of Cooperative Agreement No. 20-0281-000-SG, known as the Bee Safe Program with the California Department of Food and Agriculture in the amount of \$4,951.95

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve Cooperative Agreement No. 20-0281-000-SG, known as the Bee Safe Program Contract with the California Department of Food and Agriculture;
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the original agreement, then return the signed agreement to the Agricultural Commissioner's office for processing; and
3. Grant a waiver from the provisions of the Nuclear Free Ordinance.

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), General Fund

**DISCUSSION:**

The waiver from the provisions of the Nuclear Free Ordinance is requested because the State of California will not modify its "cooperative agreements" to accommodate local ordinances. The Agriculture Department receives annual subventions from CDFA to offset local costs associated with enforcing certain state-mandated programs administered locally by the commissioner's office.

Existing state law recognizes the importance of managed honeybees. Per the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), "a healthy and vibrant apiary industry is important to the economy and welfare of the people of the State of California. Protection and promotion of this important industry is in the interest of the people of the State of California." (FAC Division 13, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 29000). Under state law, county agricultural commissioners are granted authority in the FAC to enforce various apiary and pest prevention laws including registration, identification, placement of hives and inspection and abatement of pests. All these requirements are measures intended to ensure the vitality of the beekeeping industry and to prevent bee pests from being introduced into or spreading within the state.

Cooperative Agreement No. 20-0281-000-SG, known as the Bee Safe Program, provides funding to Humboldt County for activities related to the Bee Safe Program including: reducing stress to bees due to pesticide exposure, reducing pest pressure and increasing foraging opportunities. Work activities will include inspection of incoming bee shipments for pests, collecting and submitting specimens, inspecting beehives for required markings and monitoring treatments. Although Humboldt County possesses a small number of commercial beekeepers, the Humboldt County Beekeepers Association has many active members who are passionate about beekeeping and recognize the important contributions pollinators play in maintaining a healthy environment from which Humboldt County residents derive a benefit. The Bee Safe Program is intended to protect all beekeepers and bees.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

There is no net cost to Humboldt County for the Bee Safe Program. All costs for personnel, mileage, and supplies will be reimbursed by the contract. Cooperative Agreement No. 20-0281-000-SG provides a total of \$4,951.95 in FY 2020-21 for Agriculture Department activities related to the Bee Safe Program, and revenues are received in the General Fund via Budget Unit 1100-261. All costs are billed to CDFA on a monthly basis and payment is made in arrears to Humboldt County. Revenue and expenditure accounts were previously funded in anticipation of this agreement, so no supplemental budget accompanies this request. This item comes to your Board after the effective date of July 1, 2020, due to the late arrival of the agreement from CDFA's contracts office.

**STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:**

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by enforcing laws and regulations to protect residents.

**OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:**

CDFA

**ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Board discretion

**ATTACHMENTS:**

One complete copy of Cooperative Agreement No. 20-0281-000-SG

**PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:**

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