



Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

LARRY MICARI
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: **REVISED** July 9, 2024

Public Hearing Required	N/A
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	N/A
Published Notice Required	N/A
Advertised Published Notice	N/A
Meet & Confer Required	N/A
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	N/A
Personnel Resolution attached	N/A
Agreement(s) attached	Yes

CONTACT PERSON: Tesfaye Jimma PHONE: 5596843368

SUBJECT: Approve an Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve an Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, to offset costs of providing fruit and vegetable inspection services for the State Standardization Program in an amount not to exceed \$58,180.00 retroactive from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Agreement is retroactive due to the delay in receiving the proposed agreement from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the Agreement.
3. Direct the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's Office to provide a signed copy of the Agreement to the Clerk of the Board.

SUMMARY:

In 1915, the California Legislature established minimum standards for all fresh fruits, nuts, and vegetables, marking the beginning of Standardization. Standardization came at the behest of California fresh fruit and vegetable industry to protect consumers and industry from substandard products. Under the Standardization program today, over 30 major commodities must meet specific standards, while all other commodities must meet at least minimum standards established by the Food and Agriculture Code. Prior to 1992, the Standardization Program was entirely funded by the State General Fund. Today, the program is funded entirely by industry. Funding is derived from a set container fee assessment.

This Agreement is intended to render financial aid to the County to provide fruit and vegetable inspection services for the State Standardization program. These services will

SUBJECT: Approve an Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

DATE: July 9, 2024

ensure that agricultural products sold in the County meet the requirements of the State Standardization program, so that all immature, stolen and/or excessively damaged fruit is kept off the market and that only wholesome fruit is sold to consumers.

This Agreement has been approved as to form by County Counsel. The following terms deviate substantively from the standard County boilerplate:

- 1) This Agreement requires mutual liability between the County and the State.
- 2) The County signs first.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

The County will receive funding up to \$58,180.00 for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. Revenues and the associated expenditures for this program are included in the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer's Fiscal Year 2024/2025 budget. There is no additional net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's five-year strategic plan includes the Economic Well-Being Initiative to promote economic development opportunities, effective growth management, and a quality standard of living. This request to authorize an Agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the purpose of regulating produce being sold and/or processed in the county will ensure timely continuance of a long-standing program of protecting the County's agriculture-based economy by ensuring all immature, stolen and/or excessively damaged fruit is kept off the market and only wholesome fruit is sold to consumers.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Tesfaye Jimma
Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights & Measures

Cc: County Administrative Office

Attachments: California Department of Food and Agriculture FY 2024/2025 Standardization Agreement (24-0075-000-SA)