



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Agriculture / Weights & Measures



Date: September 26, 2016
Board Meeting Date: November 1, 2016
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Fred W. Crowder, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Subject: Resolution amending fee schedule for the Agricultural Commissioner

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution amending the fee schedule for the Agricultural Commissioner.

BACKGROUND:

Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 5205 requires that the Agricultural Commissioner inspect and issue certificates attesting to pest cleanliness or the treatment of plants or other agricultural products when this certification is required by law for entry into another state or foreign country. FAC 5202 authorizes the Board of Supervisors to establish fees to recover inspection and certification costs. Fees for plant shipment phytosanitary inspection and certification requested by agricultural businesses were last amended in 2012 (June 26, 2012, Resolution 072030).

DISCUSSION:

Phytosanitary inspections are performed at the request of County growers or shippers to certify that exported agricultural commodities meet the requirements of the destination state or country. The fees, which are based on the number of packages in shipments, will increase by \$8.00 per package category and will allow the Department to maintain the current level of service. Phytosanitary certification fee structures vary; however, the proposed fees are similar on average to Santa Clara County; higher than San Francisco County and lower than Alameda County and United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA). USDA issues phytosanitary certificates at their South San Francisco facility but does not make site visits. The new fee amounts do not exceed cost recovery for the inspection program.

Inspection program costs were developed using direct personnel hours from last fiscal year and salaries and benefits, direct expenditures such as mileage and equipment, and associated indirect costs. The Department's salaries and benefits have increased 18% since the current fee schedules were established. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Number of Packages	Current Phytosanitary Fee	Proposed Phytosanitary Fee
1-75	\$38.00	\$46.00
76-200	\$42.00	\$50.00
Over 200	\$48.00	\$56.00

Approval of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of Environmentally Conscious Community by providing revenue to maintain phytosanitary certification at the current level of service. If all Biologist/Standards Specialists obtain USDA certification to inspect and certify agricultural shipments, the Department will be able to provide more efficient service to its agricultural customers.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

Measure	FY 2015-16 Actual	FY 2016-17 Projected
Percent Biologist/Standards Specialists certified by USDA to issue phytosanitary certificates	95%	100%

FISCAL IMPACT:

The proposed fee increases will contribute to the Department's ability to maintain customer service levels during FY 2016-17. The new fees will result in projected revenue increases of \$20,000 from phytosanitary inspections. This revenue has been included in the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer FY 2016-17 Adopted Budget.