



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: AGRICULTURE\WEIGHTS &
MEASURES
File #: 22-398

Board Meeting Date: 6/14/2022

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Koren J. Widdel, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer
Subject: Agreement with the Regents of the University of California

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a resolution waiving the Request for Proposal Process and authorizing an agreement with the Regents of the University of California to provide 50% cost share funding with the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) for a Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor position, for the term of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025, in an amount not to exceed \$249,832.

BACKGROUND:

Northern California is home to a rich variety of wildlife and natural resources and a long tradition of ranching and livestock production. The ability of ranchers to address losses resulting from predation is challenged through evolving concepts regarding wildlife management, conservation, and State laws. Additionally, such human-wildlife conflicts extend beyond range and agricultural lands and affect residents with livestock and pets in the unincorporated area, the urban-wildland interface, as well as visitors to parks and open space. Such situations create a need to provide education and outreach, as well as develop effective and socially acceptable tools for managing wildlife, particularly predators, that will protect livestock, human property, and the wildlife itself.

The Advisor conducts field and lab research to develop management tools for mitigating human-wildlife conflict in San Mateo County. This includes conflicts in natural resource areas, and properties bordering such areas to address predation as well as ungulate (deer), birds, rodents, and other wildlife interactions. The position serves northern California with a focus on San Francisco Bay Area Counties. This position supports ANR Strategic Initiatives in Endemic and Invasive Pests and Diseases, Sustainable Food Systems, and Sustainable Natural Ecosystems. Your Board approved the initial agreement between the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer and UCANR on August 6, 2019 for FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22 (Resolution 076846).

DISCUSSION:

The funding from this agreement shall be used to support 50% of the salary and benefits, transportation, recruitment, research, and professional development activities of the Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor

position-holder. The Advisor is an employee of the University of California, hired via the standard UCANR recruitment process, concluding with the hiring of the Advisor in consultation with the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner. UCANR will fund the remaining 50% of the salary and benefits, transportation, recruitment, research, and professional development activities. The Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor position-holder shall be headquartered in San Mateo County and shall conduct multi-county extension, education and applied research programs with primary responsibility in San Mateo County with some service to Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz County and San Francisco County to influence the future success of open space and rangeland in the region and to improve the profitability of agriculture and quantify its social, economic, and health impacts for policy makers and the community, through research and extension.

A waiver of the Request for Proposal (RFP) process is requested for this agreement as the proposal to maintain the Advisor position is a joint initiative between the San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner’s office and UCANR, and the person filling the position is a UCANR employee.

The Department requests your Board to authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer to execute additional amendments to this Agreement which modify the agreement amount by no more than \$25,000 (in aggregate) and/or modify the agreement term and/or services so long as the modified term or services is/are within the current or revised fiscal provisions.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE:

Measure	FY 2021-22 Actuals	FY 2022-23 Target	FY 2023-24 Target	FY 2024-25 Target
Number of individuals served through meetings, presentations, publications, and other online engagements	320	1,000	1,000	1,000
Number of stakeholders based in San Mateo County that received research-based consultation and technical assistance on human-wildlife conflict management	N/A *New measure	100	100	100

FISCAL IMPACT:

The term of the Agreement is July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. The total Agreement amount is not to exceed \$249,832 for the three-year term. The funds for this agreement are included in the Department’s FY 2022-23 Recommended Budget by way of State subvention revenue. There is no impact to the Department’s Net County Cost.