



Contra  
Costa  
County

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Matt Slattengren

Date: February 12, 2019

Subject: Agreement for Bee Safe Program

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE and AUTHORIZE the Agricultural Commissioner, or designee, to execute an agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in an amount not to exceed \$9,431 for reimbursement of services for the Bee Safe Program for the period November 15, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Approval of this agreement will provide reimbursement to the Department in an amount not to exceed \$9,431. There is no county match of funds, or grant money involved.

**BACKGROUND:**

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 California." (FAC Division 13, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 29000). The health of managed honeybees gained national attention in 2006 following an unsustainable, 50% overwinter loss rate of commercial honey bees. Continued honeybee losses can jeopardize not only commercial bee keepers, but the numerous crops that benefit from, or in the case of almonds, entirely depend on the

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD

ADMINISTRATOR

COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **02/12/2019** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor

Candace Andersen, District II  
Supervisor

Diane Burgis, District III  
Supervisor

Karen Mitchoff, District IV  
Supervisor

Federal D. Glover, District V  
Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: February 12, 2019

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: Laura Cassell, Deputy

Contact: 608-6600

cc:

honeybee.

### BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

Recognizing the critical role of insect pollinators in producing the wide variety of fruit, vegetables, nuts and other crops that feed the nation and the world, federal funding was made available for conservation and research to improve health of honeybees and other key pollinators. A report from 2012 concluded that on-going honeybee losses were the result of the combined effects of four key honey bee stressors: Pests and parasites; nutrition and lack of forage; pesticide exposure; and genetics.

The main objectives of the Bee Safe Program are to reduce honeybee stressors through: Improved apiary (a place where bees are kept) theft prevention efforts; Decreased apiary pest pressure; Decreased apiary stress due to pesticide exposure; and, Increased apiary foraging opportunities. County Agricultural Commissioners are granted authority identified in the Food and Agricultural Code to enforce various apiary and pest prevention laws (i.e. registration, identification, and placement of hives; inspection and abatement of pests) intended to ensure the vitality of the beekeeping industry and to prevent the introduction into, or the spread within the state of pests. The CDFA agreement was received on December 11, 2018, resulting in this retroactive request.

### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

A negative vote would result in loss of revenue to the Department and a possible threat to the honey bee population not only in Contra Costa County, but statewide.