

# Agricultural Commissioner & Sealer

Stephen M. Scheer. – Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

101-3400	FY 16/17 Adopted Budget	FY 17/18 CAO Recommended	Change
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Salaries and Benefits	964,020	867,508	(96,512)
Services and Supplies	202,967	197,749	(5,218)
Other Charges	(693)	(21,788)	(21,095)
Fixed Assets	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,166,294</b>	<b>1,043,469</b>	<b>(122,825)</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Fed/State	475,693	476,000	307
Grant	0	0	0
Realignment	0	0	0
Fees/Misc	171,796	117,296	(54,500)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>647,489</b>	<b>593,296</b>	<b>(54,193)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET COUNTY COST</b>	<b>518,805</b>	<b>450,173</b>	<b>(68,632)</b>

## Program Description

### Environmental Protection

- Pesticide Enforcement: To protect the public, pesticide applicators, field workers, the environment and agricultural crops from the potential harmful effects of pesticides. This is accomplished through regulating the activities of licensed pest control operators, advisors, pilots, pesticide dealers, certified applicators and private applicators, their employees and other users throughout the county to ensure proper pesticide use. Estimated at 59 % of budget.
- Pest Management and Prevention: To protect the environment, native and ornamental plantings and the agricultural industry and its access to export markets through exclusion, detection and eradication of significant pests. Accomplished through inspection of incoming shipments at UPS Distribution Centers and terminal post offices,

certification of agricultural products for export, insect trapping programs for quarantine compliance, control of noxious weed pests, detection field surveys, Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control programs. Estimated at 22% of budget.

- Agricultural Information: To provide accurate agricultural production statistics and information to the public and private businesses and governmental agencies and to assist citizens with pest identification and control, including biological control techniques. Assist in agriculturally-related land use and planning issues. Activities include compilation of Annual Crop Report and crop loss and damage assessments. Provide identification and pest management strategies. Estimated at 5% of budget.

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## **Consumer Protection (Weights & Measures)**

- Weighing and Measuring Device  
Enforcement: To minimize measurement error in commercial transactions by inspecting and testing all commercial weighing and measuring devices. To remove from service until repaired those devices which do not meet tolerances and specifications. Program elements include inspection and testing of all commercial gasoline, diesel fuel, jet fuel, hydrocarbon vapor, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum, water and electric meters (not under PUC). Inspection and testing of commercial general use scales from gold to truck scales. Also regulate device repairmen activities, weighmaster and petroleum enforcement. Estimated at 10% of budget.
- Package Quality Control: Provide that sales of goods, services, and commodities sold directly over weighing or measuring devices or in packaged form are accurately measured and comply with labeling and methods of sale requirements. Activities include: retail market inspection, test purchases, undercover purchases, general quantity control, investigation of firewood complaints and testing of price scanners. Estimated at ~1% of budget.

enforcement of State standards pertaining to fruits, nuts, vegetables, honey, and eggs sold at wholesale and retail outlets throughout Yuba County. Program Elements are: Wholesale and retail produce & egg inspection, growing-grounds verification for issuing Certified Producer Certificates, monitoring Certified Farmer Markets and registration and inspection of organic growers. Estimated at 2% of budget.

- Seed Inspection: To provide good quality seed for agricultural and home use which is properly tested and labeled ensuring that seed meets germination and purity standards and is free from harmful weed seeds. Program Elements: Wholesale and retail seed inspection, maintenance of seed purity and germination standards. Estimated at – 1% of budget.

## **Consumer Protection (Agriculture)**

- Nursery Protection: To provide consumers with pest-free nursery stock and to provide agriculture with graded and standardized products by inspecting incoming and locally produced nursery stock. Program Elements: wholesale inspection of producing nurseries, periodic inspection of retail nurseries. Estimated at – 1% of budget.
- Fruit, Vegetable, and Egg Quality Control: To ensure the consumer is offered fresh, healthy, properly labeled and packaged agricultural commodities through

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**Miscellaneous Programs**

- Serve as coordinator for Yuba County Firesafe Council
- Serve as an advisor to the Yuba Sutter Weed Management Area committee
- Served on Yuba Sutter SpraySafe Planning Committee
- Information Management and Specifications and Tolerances Committee representative for professional association
- Serve in Planning/Intelligence Section for County Emergency Response Plan
- Serve as an advisor to the Yuba Sutter Butte Sub-Water Quality Coalition and Sacramento Valley Water Quality Coalition

Workload Indicators	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
	Estimated	Estimated
Permits, Operator I.D. and Certifications	360	365
Notices of Intent	1300	1462
Pesticide Use Reports	15,000	16,250
Inspections and Investigations	400	425
PUE Compliance & Enforcement Actions	5	6
Quarantine Shipments/Packages Inspected	650	675
Notices of Rejection	10	10
Agricultural Phytosanitary Exports	340	550
Weights and Measure Devices Registered	2,000	2255

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## Accomplishments

### FY 2016-2017

- The Agricultural Commissioner serves as a committee member on the Information Management Committee and The CalPEATS Technical Advisory Committee of the statewide organization of California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) and serves on various committees and special projects for the Association as appropriate.
- Through the Department, the Board of Supervisors adopted an ordinance “relating to the prevention of nut crop theft.” The Department continues to enforce the adopted requirements for the purchase and sale of walnuts to protect the Yuba County walnut industry.
- The Agricultural Commissioner in conjunction with the California Rice Commission (CRC), California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) and the Sacramento Valley Agricultural Commissioners of rice growing counties worked successfully to modify Thiobencarb use requirement in rice to help ensure its availability for future use.
- Department staff completed 541 Federal Phytosanitary exports, a historical high in the last fiscal year. This is up from the previous year number of 269. Export numbers increased mainly due to shipments of walnuts abroad. Yuba county exports were able to put Yuba County agricultural products in 28 countries.
- Five of the departments licensed staff took and passed the federal security exam, which is a qualification for ACOs to continue to write Federal Phytosanitary export certificates. This is a significant benefit to Yuba County growers and exporters. It is a priority for the remaining 2 new biologists to become certified as soon as possible.
- With approval of the Board of Supervisors, the Commissioner administered the Fire Safe Council funding. The Federal Forestry Reserve Payment (HR 2389), Title III projects was not authorized for FY 16/17. The program was funded by a grant from the Yuba County Water Agency.
- The Department has worked though many of the ongoing technological issues discovered during implementation of the new version of CalAgPermits, a new statewide web-based pesticide permitting program that allows staff to issue pesticide permits using GIS technology.
- The Department has adopted the recently completed California Pesticide Enforcement Activity Tracking System (CalPEATS). This system allows for integrated data, inspection and enforcement activities and streamlines paperwork and reporting requirements.
- Secured a contract with California Rice Commission (CRC) for after hour’s enforcement for a specific rice herbicide.
- Worked with Farm Bureau and Yuba-Sutter Farm Extension to provide pesticide training in both English and Spanish at the Spray Safe program held at the Fairgrounds to a large group of farm employers and employees.
- Secured private and public DWR funds to help offset expense of the USDA Wildlife Services Specialist (County Trapper) included in this budget unit. Worked with county Public Works Department and various water districts, along with county residents, to improve water drainage and flood control in various locations throughout the county.
- Agricultural Commissioner cooperated with the Planning Department to develop conditions for the County Use Permit (CUP) addressing permanent agricultural crops on the zoned residential properties in the Country Club Rd area of the county.

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- Agricultural Commissioner and professional licensed staff met with California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) lead staff and the Certified Farmers Market Managers (CFMM) in the foothill areas of the county to help them better understand the new, more ridged laws placed upon the CFMM and the Certified Producers who sell at these markets.
- The department worked with area growers to address water quality issues and represented the County on the Yuba-Sutter-Butte Sub-watershed Coalition a non-profit group and the Sacramento River Water Quality Coalition to implement the Conditional Waiver for Irrigated Agricultural lands.
- Participated with Valley Vision in outreach programs – including meeting with growers to address the feasibility of a farm-to-fork program adopting proposed work strategies in a recent SACOG study.
- Agricultural Commissioner continues to serve on the Workforce Planning Committee.
- Agricultural Commissioner completed eighth year of facilitating the Yuba County Fish and Game Commission, which has demanded a considerable departmental time and commitment.
- purchase of a new shared heavy capacity weight truck.
- Work with all Federal, State, and Local emergency agencies and departments to best position Yuba County Agriculture to become eligible for all disaster relief that will become available through the various programs, as the ongoing precipitation and flood events continue.
- Maintain an active role with the Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) and the California Commissioner and Sealers Association (CACASA) in the development of the CALPEATS pesticide inspection program.
- Continue to incorporate the new evolving statewide permit system (CalAgPermits) and the new statewide enforcement tracking system (CalPEATS). This will require working with the development company, Department of Pesticide Regulation, industry, growers and Yuba County I.T., as well as other counties. Provide training resources to staff as we continue implementation of the CalAgPermits and CalPEATS programs and to encourage “online reporting” with the regulated industry and growers.
- Work with Yuba-Sutter Farm Bureau, Farm Services Agency and Resource Conservation District on agricultural-related issues that have the potential to affect Yuba County; extreme weather and flooding effects being the primary issue of concern at this time.
- Make all necessary adjustments to the department workload to assure as many agricultural phytosanitary exports take place as possible, to help keep Yuba County exporters competitive worldwide.
- Assure all our licensed biologists secure and maintain through federal exam their qualifications as a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) ACO exporter.
- Continue working through CACASA to negotiate increased funding through the

## Goals and Objectives

### FY 2017-2018

- Pursue revenue sources that would benefit the Department and the County, while focusing on maintaining expenditures at a minimum.
- Pursue a grant opportunity through CDFA for a noxious weed detection program in the mountainous areas of the county.
- Coordinate with Sutter and Nevada counties weights and measures officials to develop a Joint Powers Agreement for the

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- unclaimed gas tax distribution and the Pesticide Mill Assessment.
- Administer the remaining Fire Safe Council Funds to implement programs approved by the Board of Supervisors.
- Continue working with area growers to address agriculturally related water quality issues and to represent Yuba County on the Sacramento River Water Quality and the Butte-Sutter-Yuba Sub-watershed Coalitions.
- Serve as a resource to Board of Supervisors and the Planning Department during the updating of the County’s policies as per the General Plan, County Use Permits (CUP) and participate in various committees as requested by the Board or County Administrator.
- Secure additional funding through the Yuba Sutter WMA, CDFA and private sources for Hydrilla eradication project as well as compete for statewide supplemental funding for same.
- The “Fire Safe Coordinator” agreement will end June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The position was funded by a grant from Yuba County Water Agency in FY 16/17. The Board of Supervisors will need to make a decision as to whether “county funds” should be used to extend the program for fiscal year 2017/18 if unfunded or allow the “Fire Safe Coordinator” position to end.
- USDA Wildlife Services Specialist (County Trapper) provides for non-domestic animal damage control including education and outreach. It is recommended the Board of Supervisors consider this program’s priority during the budget process.
- With the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act and the passage of Proposition 64, the department is potentially tasked with registration and track and trace functions related to cannabis production. During the next year we will be working closely with the Board of Supervisors and other departments to design and implement programs to effectively regulate cannabis. Currently there is no funding identified to offset the costs of these programs.

## Pending Issues/Policy Considerations FY 2017-2018

- Walnut theft in Yuba County continues to be a problem to Walnut growers and processors.
- The department in conjunction with YS Farm Bureau, walnut industry and the Yuba County Sherriff will review the current “Walnut Theft Ordinance” to see if any amendments are needed.
- The Agricultural Commissioner is working with the Planning Department on providing land use recommendations adjacent to agriculture operations. Potential agricultural buffers may be an issue that will need to be addressed by the Board of Supervisors.
- Provide training and resources for new biologist that will start working in late spring for the department.



ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2014-2015	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2015-2016	BOS APPROVED 2016-2017	DEPARTMENT REQUESTED 2017-2018	CAO RECOMMENDED 2017-2018
Services & Supplies						
101-3400-426.10-00	AGRIC. SUPPLIES	0	0	200	200	200
101-3400-426.12-00	COMMUNICATION	2,434	2,783	4,260	5,596	5,596
101-3400-426.15-00	INSURANCE	2,436	2,526	2,841	2,554	2,554
101-3400-426.17-00	MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT	9,380	16,353	15,208	15,333	15,333
101-3400-426.20-00	MEMBERSHIPS	3,050	2,950	4,000	4,000	4,000
101-3400-426.22-00	OFFICE EXPENSE	5,628	5,060	9,000	8,536	8,536
101-3400-426.23-00	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	54,455	49,853	83,158	52,250	52,250
101-3400-426.25-00	RENTS & LEASES/EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	1,464	1,464
101-3400-426.27-00	SMALL TOOLS/INSTRUMENTS	237	457	1,000	1,000	1,000
101-3400-426.28-00	SPECIAL DPMT EXPENSE	6,649	1,845	8,000	8,000	8,000
101-3400-426.29-00	TRAVEL	54,288	53,094	75,300	79,540	79,540
101-3400-426.30-00	UTILITIES	0	0	0	19,276	19,276
*	EXPENDITURE	138,557	134,921	202,967	197,749	197,749
**	Services & Supplies	138,557	134,921	202,967	197,749	197,749
Other Charges						
101-3400-426.53-01 A-87	CHARGES	2,368	857	693-	1,212	1,212
*	EXPENDITURE	2,368	857	693-	1,212	1,212
**	Other Charges	2,368	857	693-	1,212	1,212
Cost Reimbursements						
101-3400-426.90-00	REIMBURSEMENTS	33,000-	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-
*	EXPENDITURE	33,000-	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-
**	Cost Reimbursements	33,000-	23,000-	0	23,000-	23,000-
***	AGRICULTURE COMM & SEALER	1,016,880	1,028,531	1,166,294	0	0