

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

355



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
June 20, 2006

SUBJECT: Response to the Grand Jury Report: Riverside County Cooperative Extension Program

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Approve with or without modifications, the attached response to the Grand Jury's recommendations regarding Riverside County Cooperative Extension Program.
- 2) Direct the Clerk of the Board to immediately forward the Board's finalized response to the Grand Jury, to the Presiding Judge, and the County Clerk-Recorder (for mandatory filing with the State).

BACKGROUND: On April 25, 2006, the Board directed staff to prepare a draft of the Board's response to the Grand Jury's report regarding the Riverside County Cooperative Extension Program.

Section 933 (c) of the Penal Code requires that the Board of Supervisors comment on the Grand Jury's recommendations pertaining to the matters under the control of the Board, and that a response be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days.

H:\DGRANT\GJURY\90dayresponseCoopExt06.doc

Gary Christmas
GARY CHRISTMAS
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ N/A	In Current Year Budget:
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$	Budget Adjustment:
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$	For Fiscal Year:

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE.

County Executive Office Signature

[Signature]

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Tavaglione, seconded by Supervisor Ashley and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Buster, Tavaglione, Wilson and Ashley
 Nays: None
 Absent: Stone
 Date: June 20, 2006
 xc: E.O., Grand Jury, Presiding Judge, County Clerk-Recorder,
 Cooperative Extension

Nancy Romero
Clerk of the Board
By: *[Signature]*
Deputy

Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
 Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.9- 7/12/05 | **District:** | **Agenda Number:**

3.6

RIVERSIDE COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM
Response to Findings and Recommendations

FINDINGS:

Number 1:

The expertise provided by the Riverside County Cooperative Extension is instrumental to egg processing facilities and preventing the spread of Avian Influenza, also known as the Bird Flu. In a joint effort with the Cooperative Extension Program, a Riverside County Avian Influenza Task Force was organized and includes several county health agencies.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

Number 2:

The County of Riverside leases space for the Cooperative Extension's main office in Moreno Valley from the Farm Bureau for \$108,368. This 6,000 square-foot workplace accommodates 18 employees, offices, and small and large conference rooms.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

Number 3:

There are no laboratory facilities available, forcing researchers to use their workrooms as makeshift laboratories both in Moreno Valley and Indio. Some researchers have indicated that this is disruptive and sometimes hinders research. Indio personnel must transport samples and equipment to Riverside, which can compromise the quality of samples.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

Number 4:

The Indio office is based in the County Administration Center and has 900 square-feet of workspace. This includes just one office for five employees plus seasonal staff.

Response:

Respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Number 1:

Riverside County Board of Supervisors continues to support and budget for the Cooperative Extension and its joint effort with the Avian Influenza Task Force.

Response:

The recommendation has been implemented.

Cooperative Extension is an educational outreach program supported by a partnership between Riverside County, the University of California, the state and U.S. Department of Agriculture. The County of Riverside funds administrative and clerical expenses for Cooperative Extension. The 2006/2007 proposed budget recommends continued funding at current levels. This continued funding will allow Cooperative Extension to continue to deliver programs that serve the residents of Riverside County. The department looks forward to continuing to work on the Avian Influenza taskforce, West Nile Virus Taskforce, and other issues of public interest such as Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Taskforce, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, RCOE Head Start Health Advisory Committee and the Southeast Asian People's Farm Project. The department will also continue to work with residents of Riverside County as well as with other agencies to provide science-based research, education and public service to help solve problems in agriculture, natural resources, food and nutrition, food safety, and human community development.

Number 2:

The Board of Supervisors provide a main office with space for:

- a. A 700 square-foot research laboratory to include:
 - Natural gas
 - Fume hood
 - Water
 - Bench space
- b. Conference room with a capacity for 150.

Response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Explain.

Currently, the lab space for rudimentary analysis is sufficient at the Moreno Valley office. Lab space for more in-depth analysis is available for use at UCR on an as needed basis. The Moreno Valley office serves as the main office for Cooperative Extension. The space is leased from the Farm Bureau, and houses 16 employees, plus volunteers. The facility has 13 individual offices, a clerical support room with four office cubicles, a main reception area, a large work area that houses various office equipment that allows for the printing of high volume of materials for the public, and a supply room for all necessary supplies and paper. Additionally the department has a small conference room (15 maximum) and a large conference room (35 maximum). At this time, the department is able to rent space from other local jurisdictions for large meetings. This arrangement is sufficient at this time. If need increases, the department will consider other options and request increased funding.

Number 3:

The Board of Supervisors provide the Indio staff space for:

- a. A 700 square foot research laboratory to include:
 - Natural gas
 - Fume hood
 - Water
 - Bench space

- b. Four offices
- c. Conference room with a capacity for 20.
- d. Work area to house a large photocopier with collator computer, postage meter and table.

Response:

The recommendation requires further analysis. Explain the scope and parameters of an analysis or study:

Further analysis is warranted at this time. The department will work with Facilities Management and the Capital Improvement Program Team to analyze space and programming needs, which will include an examination of need and availability in relation to office space, a large work area, access to a conference room, and a sink for rudimentary lab work.

Provide a time frame for analysis or study to be completed by the department/agency. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.

Cooperative Extension will analyze and study this recommendation and report back to the Board of Supervisors in 90 days.