

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Agricultural Commissioner	(2) MEETING DATE 6/2/2015	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Martin Settevendemie 805.781.5913	
(4) SUBJECT Submittal of a Resolution designating June 7 through 13, 2015 as Invasive Species Action Week in San Luis Obispo County. All Districts.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board adopt the resolution designating June 7 through June 13, 2015 as California Invasive Species Action Week in San Luis Obispo County.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? No
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5 Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? N/A	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Lisa Howe			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts.			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Agricultural Commissioner / Martin Settevendemie
805.781.5913

DATE: 6/2/2015

SUBJECT: Submittal of a Resolution designating June 7 through 13, 2015 as Invasive Species Action Week in San Luis Obispo County. All Districts.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board adopt the resolution designating June 7 through June 13, 2015 as California Invasive Species Action Week in San Luis Obispo County.

DISCUSSION

Invasive species are a significant threat to our agriculture, landscapes and the native environment. The costs associated with invasive species, both in damages and management efforts, are estimated to be \$120 billion annually in the United States. While comprehensive regulatory efforts are in place to prevent the movement and introduction of invasive species, the most effective tool we can employ is public awareness. The intent of this resolution is to bolster the public's awareness of invasive species, outline current efforts to combat invasive species and to request the assistance of the public to prevent their introduction into San Luis Obispo County.

The pleasant climate throughout San Luis Obispo County provides ideal conditions for a wide diversity of native plants and animals to thrive. The same is true for invasive and destructive insect pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds. Invasive species are detrimental to the local agricultural industry and economy by damaging crops, increasing production costs, and reducing yields. Invasive species can also negatively impact native fish and wildlife populations and water resources by out-competing native species, displacing native plant populations, altering communities and ecosystem processes, clogging waterways, and degrading native habitats, water quality, and recreational experiences. Noxious and invasive weeds can increase fire hazard and wildfires, reduce habitat for native fauna, and crowd out native plant species.

Under the authority of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the San Luis Obispo County Agricultural Commissioner has a long-standing commitment to manage, and in certain cases, eradicate invasive species in three distinct program areas which include noxious weed control, pest detection trapping, and pest exclusion.

The department is engaged in controlling noxious weeds that can cause economic damage for ranchers and agriculturalists and serious ecological damage to native habitats. The department's Weed Control Program annually surveys several hundred noxious weed sites throughout the County, employing various control strategies to eliminate pioneer infestations of noxious weeds before they have the opportunity to become established. Controlling these pioneer infestations, which often requires many years of follow up, is a critical component of the Program's countywide approach and the best use of limited funding. Pioneer infestations of noxious weeds controlled over the past year include yellow starthistle, artichoke thistle, oblong spurge, french broom and jubatagrass. Foxtail retharrow, a weed that occurs nowhere else in North America, has nearly been eradicated from the County's only known location.

The department's Pest Detection Program targets high risk locations where the introduction of invasive insect species is likely. Staff place and relocate thousands of insect traps in over 6,000 urban yards each year in search of exotic,

destructive insects and pests that can damage fruits, vegetables, other crops, and landscapes. The placement and servicing of these traps adhere to scientifically based protocols developed by CDFA. The intent of this program is to detect the presence of invasive insects at very low population levels, which helps to protect local agriculture, urban landscapes, and wild lands, by intercepting pests when eradication is still a realistic goal.

In addition to our pest detection efforts, staff working in the Pest Exclusion Program ensure exotic pests are not introduced or become established in the county upon their initial arrival. Staff intercept and inspect incoming plant shipments in nursery and distribution centers countywide. Upon inspection, staff will eliminate the risk of infested shipments by destroying, reconditioning or returning the shipment to its origin.

Coupled with efforts to ensure incoming plant material is free of invasive species, the department is also concerned with protecting destinations where our local products are shipped. To do so, staff inspect and certify shipments destined for domestic and international markets. This effort helps to ensure that any pests existing in San Luis Obispo County are not moved to other destinations where they do not currently exist.

In an effort to raise awareness with the public, local residents are asked to be conscious of the impacts of invasive pests and assist in preventing their introduction to San Luis Obispo County by taking a few simple steps when obtaining plant material. The following steps will significantly reduce the likelihood of a pest being introduced and will help to protect agriculture, landscapes and native habitat:

- Buy nursery products locally from reputable sources which have been routinely inspected by the Agricultural Commissioner's staff.
- Purchase firewood from local sources. Do not transport firewood into the county.
- Do not transport plants or plant parts into the county from areas under quarantine. Contact the department at 805-781-5910 for information regarding current quarantine areas.
- Inspect camping gear, hiking boots and equipment for hitchhiking seeds and plant parts that could take root in the county.
- Check residential landscaping often for signs of unusual symptoms or strange insects. Contact the local University of California Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program at 805-781-5939 for help in identification of unusual plant symptoms or pests.
- If asked, allow the Agricultural Commissioner's staff to place an insect trap in your yard and cooperate with officials if it becomes necessary to exclude or eliminate pests from San Luis Obispo County.

For more information, visit the following websites:

Invasive Species Council of California
<http://www.iscc.ca.gov/>

California Department of Food & Agriculture – Report a Pest
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/reportapest/>

California Invasive Plant Council
<http://www.cal-ipc.org/>

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

None.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this update.

RESULTS

This resolution will help to inform your Board and the public about the economic and ecological threats posed to local agriculture and local habitats from invasive species and the actions and programs in place in response to the potential introduction and presence of invasive species. This Resolution supports your Board's vision of a livable, safe and prosperous community.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1