

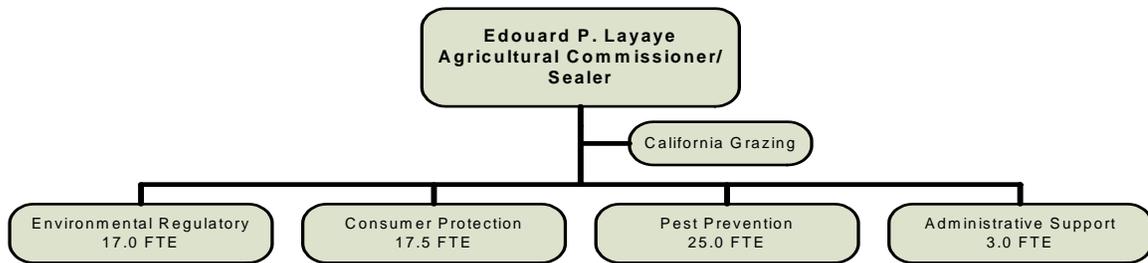
AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Edouard P. Layaye

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures protects the environment, agricultural industry, businesses and consumers of this state and county through regulation and satisfies its customers by providing services that promote the health, safety, well being, and quality of life of its residents according to the County Charter, general laws, and the will of the customers it serves.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



III. SUMMARY OF BUDGET UNITS

	2005-06				
	Appropriation	Revenue	Local Cost	Fund Balance	Staffing
Agriculture/Weights and Measures	5,467,715	3,554,951	1,912,764		63.5
California Grazing	128,693	7,500		121,193	-
TOTAL	5,596,408	3,562,451	1,912,764	121,193	63.5

IV. DESCRIPTION OF MAJOR SERVICES

The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures protects the environment, public health, worker safety and the welfare of the public by enforcing state and local agricultural and consumer protection laws. The department enforces plant quarantines, detects and eradicates unwanted foreign pests and regulates pesticide use, the agricultural industry and all business transactions based on units of measures such as weight or volume. Additional duties include, inspecting eggs, produce and nursery stock, controlling vegetation along state and county right-of-ways and flood control channels, and manufacturing rodent baits for sale to the general public. The department also administers the California Grazing budget which funds rangeland improvements on federal land within the county.

The Environmental Regulatory Division regulates pesticide use, manufactures rodent baits, controls vegetation along right-of-ways, regulates apiaries and the removal of desert native plants. Permit, registration and inspection controls on the commercial use of pesticides helps prevent serious environmental and human illness incidents resulting from the misuse of pesticides. Permits serve as California Environmental Quality Act equivalents of environmental impact reports, thus easing the burden of agricultural compliance and providing flexibility for growers. In addition, all pesticide use related complaints and illnesses are investigated to determine why the problem occurred and enforcement actions are taken to ensure compliance. Control of vegetation reduces maintenance costs and reduces fire hazards. Noxious weeds are controlled at a number of sites to prevent their spread. Public health and safety is enhanced by the appropriate placement of commercial apiaries. Rodent baits are sold at cost to the public to assist in controlling rodent-caused damage and rodent-borne diseases.

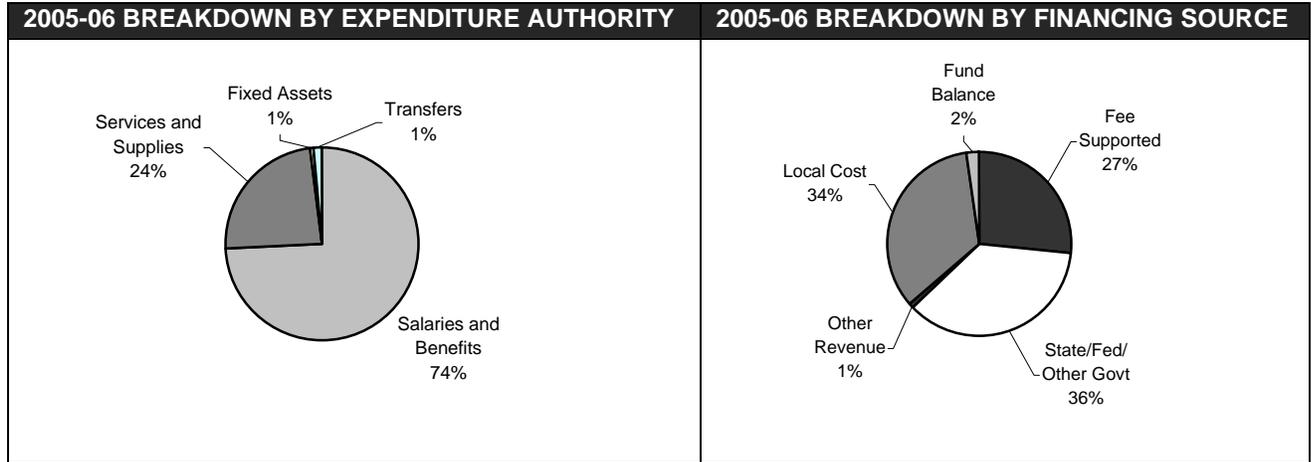
The Consumer Protection Division inspects all commercially used weighing and measuring devices, verifies price scanner accuracy and the quantity of pre-packaged goods, monitors certified farmer's markets and performs quality control inspections of eggs and produce. Consumers and businesses are protected and



commerce enhanced by accurate weighing and measuring devices and the correct pricing of goods. These devices are inspected on an annual basis and whenever complaints are received. Produce and egg quality inspections protect consumers by helping ensure food safety.

The Pest Prevention Division regulates the movement of plants and plant products, monitors the county to detect foreign pests, and inspects nurseries. Export certification and prompt inspection of plant and plant product shipments facilitates the movement of foreign and domestic goods in the channels of trade and prevents the spread of pests. Interception of foreign pests in shipments enhances the quality of life of county residents by preventing environmental degradation, disruption of trade and public inconvenience resulting from quarantine restrictions.

V. 2005-06 BUDGET



VI. GOALS & 2006-07 OBJECTIVES AT CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS

GOALS	2006-07 OBJECTIVES
<p>1. Continue to protect the public's health, agriculture and the environment by preventing proscribed foreign pest infestations and the misuse of pesticides, in light of increases in county growth.</p>	<p>A. Inspect all shipments of plant material for compliance with quarantines and freedom from proscribed pests that arrive in the county by common carriers, such as FedEx, airfreight carriers, trucking firms, UPS and the US Postal Service.</p> <p>B. Maintain insect detection traps and servicings throughout areas specified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>C. Monitor 3% of all structural fumigations and 7 ½ % of all restricted pesticide applications to ensure compliance with worker safety, permit conditions and general work standards regulations.</p>
<p>2. Continue to protect county residents from being overcharged for purchased goods by ensuring accuracy in the measurement of commodities sold, and prices charged by retail businesses that utilize barcode scanning equipment, in light of county growth.</p>	<p>A. Inspect for accuracy all registered weighing and measuring devices in accordance with the schedule established by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.</p> <p>B. Inspect for accuracy all registered businesses that pack commodities such as supermarkets, manufacturers and bakeries.</p> <p>C. Inspect for accuracy all registered businesses using price scanners.</p>



The department has selected two goals based on its mandated duties and its Mission statement. The first goal deals with public health, quality of life and environmental protection while the second goal addresses quality of life through consumer confidence in marketplace transactions. Each goal involves three objectives and the attainment of these two goals and their six objectives will require the participation of the majority of its staff and resources.

GOAL NO. 1 - CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING PROSCRIBED FOREIGN PEST INFESTATIONS AND THE MISUSE OF PESTICIDES:

Each year, insects, weeds and plant diseases damage crops and ornamental plantings and cost billions of dollars to control. The use of millions of pounds of pesticides is required resulting in impacts to public health and the environment. Many of these pests originated from outside of California. Preventing additional pests such as various fruit flies, Japanese beetles, hydrilla, and citrus canker is extremely important to every resident of the County. The department's goal is to continue to prevent these and other pests from entering the county that will improve the quality of life, maintain the economic viability of agriculture, reduce consumer costs, and protect the unique environment we enjoy. The objectives to inspect all the shipments that potentially could transport various pests to the county and to use insect detection traps and other survey methods will prevent new pests from becoming established in the county.

Pesticides are used in homes, on farms, at schools and many other locations. Because pesticides are intentionally toxic chemicals, they must be used carefully to avoid adversely impacting public health or damaging our environment. Because of the potential harm pesticides pose to all the residents of the county, the department has set an objective to closely monitor the application of the most hazardous pesticides used in the county. Inspection of 3% of the fumigations of buildings and 7 ½ % of the applications of the most hazardous pesticides used on agricultural and landscape sites will ensure a level of compliance by the users of these pesticides that is expected to prevent any serious environmental or public health impacts.

GOAL NO. 2 - CONTINUE TO PROTECT COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED FOR PURCHASED GOODS BY ENSURING ACCURACY IN THE MEASUREMENT OF COMMODITIES SOLD, AND PRICES CHARGED BY RETAIL BUSINESSES THAT UTILIZE BARCODE SCANNING EQUIPMENT:

Every day, consumers purchase goods such as gasoline or food on the basis of their weight, volume, count or other measures. Businesses also purchase goods on the basis of these measures. The accuracy of the quantity being sold is difficult for the purchaser to determine so the department has set a goal to ensure the accuracy of these purchases by inspecting all of the weighing and measuring devices that are used at the time of a sale. Businesses that pack goods in the county will also be inspected to ensure that the amounts stated on the label are accurate. The objectives to inspect these devices and packaged goods for accuracy will give consumers and businesses confidence that they are getting what they pay for and enhance the quality of life in the county.

Accuracy in prices is an important issue for consumers when businesses use price scanners. Often the transaction takes place so quickly or there are so many items being purchased that the buyer cannot determine if they were charged correctly. The use of price scanners is an important cost-savings measure for businesses. To ensure that consumers are charged correctly and that businesses can continue to use price scanners, the department has adopted the objective to inspect all of the businesses using price scanners. As with accuracy in devices and packaged goods, accuracy of pricing will enhance the quality of life for the residents of the county.



VII. PERFORMANCE MEASURES AT CURRENT FUNDING LEVELS

OBJT.	MEASUREMENT	2006-07 (Projected)
1A.	Percentage of all plant material shipments through receivers inspected.	100% (estimated total, 27,100)
1A.	Percentage of all shipments going through state inspection stations and placed under quarantine orders that are inspected at destination.	100% (estimated total, 900)
1B.	The average number of trap placements per month.	4,712
1B.	The average number of servicings conducted each month.	12,085
1C.	Percentage of reported structural fumigations of commercial and residential buildings inspected.	3% (estimated total, 150)
1C.	Restricted pesticide application inspections (from 5% to 7 ½ %)	2 ½ % Increase (estimated total, 60)
2A.	Percentage of registered devices inspected.	100% (estimated total, 26,500)
2B.	Percentage of registered packers inspected.	100% (estimated total, 300)
2C.	Percentage of registered businesses using price scanners inspected.	100% (estimated total, 625)

If there are questions about this business plan, please contact John Gardner, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, at (909) 387-2105.

