

# AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES



**John Gardner**  
Agricultural  
Commissioner/Sealer

**Mission Statement**  
The Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures protects the agricultural industry, businesses and consumers through regulations and provides 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.

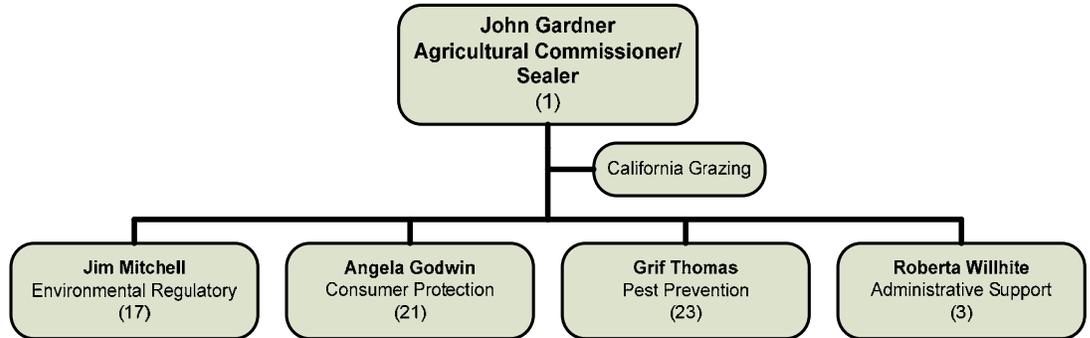
**GOALS**  
PROTECT PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PROTECT COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED ON PURCHASED GOODS



Weights and Measures price accuracy inspection

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



## 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, regulates pesticide use, verifies pricing accuracy of goods, and regulates all business transactions based on units of measures such as weight or volume. Additional duties include inspecting eggs, produce and nursery stock, certifying plant shipments for export, controlling vegetation along state and county right-of-ways and flood control channels, and other miscellaneous services provided to businesses and the general public.

The department also administers the California Grazing budget which funds rangeland improvements on federal land within the county.

## 2009-10 SUMMARY OF BUDGET UNITS

	Appropriation	Revenue	Local Cost	Fund Balance	Staffing
<b>General Fund</b>					
Agriculture/Weights & Measures	6,334,081	4,378,133	1,955,948		65
Total General Fund	6,334,081	4,378,133	1,955,948		65
<b>Special Revenue Fund</b>					
California Grazing	137,405	800		136,605	-
Total Special Revenue Fund	137,405	800		136,605	-
<b>Total - All Funds</b>	<b>6,471,486</b>	<b>4,378,933</b>	<b>1,955,948</b>	<b>136,605</b>	<b>65</b>

**GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**GOAL 1: PROTECT THE PUBLIC’S HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT BY PREVENTING FOREIGN PEST INFESTATIONS AND THE MISUSE OF PESTICIDES IN LIGHT OF INCREASES IN COUNTY POPULATION.**

*Objective A:* Inspect all common land and airfreight carriers in the County receiving shipments of plant material for compliance with quarantines and freedom from foreign pests.

*Objective B:* Maintain and service insect detection traps throughout areas specified by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

*Objective C:* Increase inspection activity for general agricultural pesticide applications to improve the level of compliance with State law.

MEASUREMENT	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 Actual	2009-10 Target	2009-10 Estimate	2010-11 Target
1A. Percentage of terminals inspected on a daily basis (# of terminals).	NA	100% (10)	100% (10)	100% (8)	100% (8)
1B. The average number of trap placements per month.	6,300	6,392	6,200	6,500	6,500
1C. Inspections of pesticide applications that are performed by agricultural companies and others.	N/A	295	304	260	285

Status

Pest Prevention is the departments’ highest priority program because of the potential economic loss that can occur to industry and the economy if an exotic pest becomes established. Measuring the percentage of shipping terminals inspected on a daily basis is an indicator of the daily workload of the pest exclusion program. In 2009, two shipping terminals closed, reducing the number of daily terminal inspections from 10 to 8. A reduction in the number of terminals to be inspected on a daily basis allows time to perform more thorough inspections of shipments at the remaining terminals. Inspections conducted at shipping terminals allow for plant material to be inspected for pests, preventing foreign pests from gaining access to the California environment.

Measuring the number of trap placements per month allows the department to accurately monitor the commitment to meeting contractual obligations with the State of California and preventing the establishment of foreign pests. The estimate for 2009-10 of 6,500 trap placements/month is 300/month higher than the 6,200 target number because the state required additional trap placements (and provided additional funding) to detect the Asian Citrus Psyllid, which was otherwise not required when the 2009-10 target number was originally established.

Inspecting pesticide applications performed by agricultural pest control companies and others allows the department to monitor these companies, with the objective of maintaining a high level of regulatory compliance. The high compliance level results in a greater degree of public health and environmental protection. With the absence of a key employee who was on extended leave this past year, the estimate for 2009-10 has decreased by 44 inspections or 14.5%. Due to the economy and the loss of businesses the target for 2010-11 is set at 285 inspections, 19 inspections lower than the 2009-10 target. An emphasis will be placed on inspecting school and municipal applications in 2009-10 to assure student and public safety.

**2008-09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ❖ Made 3,268 premise visits to shipping terminals, inspected over 37,434 plant shipments, rejected 432 shipments for various violations and intercepted 65 foreign pests
- ❖ Averaged 6,400 trap placements per month
- ❖ Achieved a 99.75% compliance rate for structural and field fumigations
- ❖ Visited 5,514 businesses requiring a Weights & Measures inspection, inspected 37,634 weighing and measuring devices and issued 1,723 Notice of Violations
- ❖ Verified the quantity of 24,132 lots of packaged goods, rejecting 20,516 packages
- ❖ Checked the accuracy of prices on 44,909 items in an effort to achieve an overall price error rate of less than 2%



**GOAL 2: PROTECT COUNTY RESIDENTS FROM BEING OVERCHARGED ON PURCHASED GOODS BY ENSURING ACCURACY IN THE WEIGHT AND MEASUREMENT OF COMMODITIES SOLD, AND PRICES CHARGED BY RETAIL BUSINESSES THAT UTILIZE ELECTRONIC PRICE LOOKUP SYSTEMS.**

Objective A: Inspect all registered businesses using commercial weighing and measuring devices, electronic pricing systems and packing commodities to ensure accurate measurement and pricing of goods.

MEASUREMENT	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2009-10	2010-11
	Actual	Actual	Target	Estimate	Target
2A. Percentage of all registered businesses inspected that require a weights and measures inspection (# of businesses inspected).	100% (3,600)	100% (4,492)	95% (3,467)	75% (3,617)	75% (3,617)

**Status**

The Consumer Protection Division realized a continued growth in new registered businesses requiring an inspection; specifically, businesses using an electronic price lookup system. Furthermore, many small businesses are being replaced with larger businesses, increasing the number of devices requiring an inspection and adding to the time required to inspect the average business. Due to business growth and two vacant positions, the estimate of inspected 2009-10 businesses is set at 75%.

The 2010-11 target is set at 75%, consumer protection remains a priority and the department will strive to meet or exceed this target; however, meeting this target is predicated upon no further deletions in inspector positions and the approval to fill one vacant position.

With the projection of further budget cuts, the department chose to keep this division's management position vacant and temporarily reassign the administrative activities of the Consumer Protection Division. To accommodate the need to inspect new businesses in 2008-09 using electronic pricing systems, departmental staff working in other programs were assigned to work in this program temporarily. As a result, the number of registered businesses has increased, adding to the annual workload. With a decrease in departmental staff and the increase of registered businesses requiring an inspection, performing 100% of all annual inspections has become a challenge.

**2010-11 REQUESTS FOR GENERAL FUND FINANCING**

The department is not requesting any additional general fund financing for 2010-11.

**2010-11 PROPOSED FEE/RATE ADJUSTMENTS**

**DESCRIPTION OF FEE REQUEST**

1. Departmental billing rates will be reviewed and proposed increases will be made based on charge rates to better reflect current costs of providing services.

**SERVICE IMPACTS**

Services will not be interrupted. Charge rates will better reflect current cost, allowing the department to lower their dependency on local cost.

If there are questions about this business plan, please contact John Gardner, Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, at (909) 387-2115.



Agriculture/Weights & Measures staff conducting a Vehicle Scale Inspection.



CC, the canine volunteer, conducting fruit inspections.