

Agricultural Commissioner

RECOMMENDED BUDGET • FY 2026-27

RECOMMENDED BUDGET

This budget is recommended at \$4,074,743, reflecting an increase of \$279,367 (7.36%) compared to the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget. General Fund support accounts for 26.70% of the Department’s funding compared to the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget. The increase in the Department’s budget results from emergency grant funding received from the State for delimitation efforts related to the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter.

Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Recommended Budget for the Commission is \$27,420, a decrease of \$4,903 (15.17%) from the FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget. The General Fund contribution to the Commission is \$13,420, representing no change from the FY 2025-26 Budget. Historically, the General Fund has contributed between \$12,000 and \$20,000 in past years.

DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY – AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

Description	FY 2024-25 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
License, Pmt, Fran	147,020	152,000	210,850	58,850
Rev Use Money/Prop	0	50	50	0
IG Rev - State	1,774,594	2,364,064	2,522,591	158,527
IG Rev - Federal	0	20,000	20,000	0
Other Gov Agency	90,682	148,727	203,917	55,190
Service Charges	25,918	22,458	29,153	6,695
Miscellaneous Rev	142	250	355	105
Other Fin Sources	6,955	0	0	0
Total Revenue	2,045,309	2,707,549	2,986,916	279,367
Salaries & Benefits	1,463,172	1,870,413	1,859,092	(11,321)
Services & Supplies	978,824	1,592,421	1,874,796	282,375
Other Charges	333,829	332,542	345,855	13,313
Fixed Assets	20,399	0	0	0
Intrafund Transfers	24	0	0	0
Intrafund Abatement	0	0	(5,000)	(5,000)
Total Appropriations	2,796,248	3,795,376	4,074,743	279,367
FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	750,938	1,087,827	1,087,827	0

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenue

License, Permits, and Franchise Fees

\$58,850 Increase in revenues due to an increase in device fees and revenue from the new Scanner Ordinance.

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State Inter-Governmental

\$158,527 Increase in revenues primarily due to the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter emergency program grant funding.

Other Governmental Agencies

\$55,190 Increase in revenue due to an increase in Noxious Weed contracts.

Service Charges

\$6,695 Increase in revenue due to an increase in small farm water inspections.

Appropriations

Salaries and Benefits

(\$108,410) Decrease in Salaries and Benefits due to an employee participating in the Retirement Incentive Plan.

\$45,444 Increase in CalPERS employer's contribution to the County's unfunded accrued liability payment and required employer contribution.

\$27,555 Increase in Workers' Compensation premium charges as the Department's share of overall County claims incurred has increased from prior years, increasing their Workers' Compensation insurance premium.

\$19,814 Increase in Other Compensation primarily due to an increase in Longevity pay.

\$2,065 Increase in Retiree Health Program charges.

\$2,211 Increase due to adjustments across multiple objects to align the budget to actuals.

Services and Supplies

\$282,375 Increase in appropriations primarily due to the pest control contract for Glassy Winged sharpshooter.

Other Finance Uses

\$13,313 Increase in appropriations primarily due to the increase in the University of California Cooperative Extension contract.

Intrafund Abatement

(\$5,000) Increase (shown as a negative expense) in Intrafund Abatement due to reimbursable work being done on Oak Mitigation monitoring.

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DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY – FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION

Description	FY 2024-25 Actual	Current Year Adopted	CAO Recommended	Difference from Adopted
Fines & Penalties	10,819	8,500	4,000	(4,500)
Rev Use Money/Prop	(483)	0	0	0
Other Fin Sources	29,467	13,420	13,420	0
Fund Balance	0	10,403	10,000	(403)
Total Revenue	39,803	32,323	27,420	(4,903)
Services & Supplies	14,933	32,323	27,420	(4,903)
Total Appropriations	14,933	32,323	27,420	(4,903)
FUND 1106 FISH & GAME TOTAL	(24,870)	0	0	0

MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES

Revenues

Fund Balance

(\$403) Decreased use of Fund Balance due to projects completed in FY 2025-26.

Fines and Penalties

(\$4,500) Decrease in Fines & Penalties due to fewer fines being issued from diversion.

Appropriations

Services and Supplies

(\$4,903) Decrease in appropriations to align the Commission’s workplan for FY 2026-27 with available funding.

MISSION

The Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures’ mission is to protect, enhance and promote the preservation of agriculture and the environment while sustaining the public health, safety, and welfare of all citizens, and to provide consumer and marketplace protections through the fair and equitable enforcement of laws and regulations in El Dorado and Alpine Counties.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

Agricultural Commissioner

Agricultural Commission

Created in 1967 by the Board of Supervisors, the seven-member Agricultural Commission acts in an advisory capacity to the Board and the Planning Commission on all matters related to agriculture. The Agricultural

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Commissioner's scope of interests includes a wide variety of agricultural, timber and land use issues including agricultural land preservation, agricultural production, forestland preservation, and forest production. The Commission also advises the Board on procedures and techniques requiring legislative or policy actions that would encourage and promote agricultural activities that are conducive to the continued well-being of El Dorado County.

Fish and Wildlife Commission

The Fish and Wildlife Commission is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise on matters related to fish and wildlife conservation and to oversee the expenditure of Fish and Wildlife funds collected from fines by the Courts.

Agriculture Programs

The Department is responsible for numerous mandated programs that promote, protect, and enhance various aspects of agricultural activities.

- Pest Exclusion – plant protection and quarantine. This program provides the first line of defense for California agriculture and the environment against the invasion of exotic pests. Inspections provide protection from the introduction of insect and disease pests that may be introduced into the state through the movement of plants and plant products as well as other items through normal channels of trade. This program also involves inspections of plant material being delivered to other states and countries and the issuance of certificates documenting compliance with their entry requirements.
- Pest Detection – early detection of exotic pests using insect detection traps. This program provides the second line of defense against exotic pests through the early detection of new introductions before they become widely established. Traps are placed in primarily urban areas to detect such insect pests as Mediterranean and Mexican fruit flies, Spongy Moth, Japanese Beetle, and a host of other targeted pest species. Through early detection, the likelihood of these pests becoming established in the state is lessened, and the cost and environmental impact of eradication is minimized.
- Pest Management-Vegetation Management – There are nine different noxious weed species under eradication throughout the County. Most weed species targeted for eradication in El Dorado County are listed as 'A' rated weeds by the State, and are of limited distribution throughout California.
- Glassy-winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) – initiated in 1999 to prevent the introduction of this insect to El Dorado County. GWSS is known to spread Pierce's Disease, which can devastate vineyard plantings. A detection of GWSS in 2024 has initiated an eradication program funded by state emergency funding. The pest monitoring and eradication programs include inspections of all nursery stock shipped into the County from known infested areas and treatments of known infested areas. Historically, the Department utilizes Extra Help and Limited Term Agricultural Biology Technician employees for Pest Management programs.
- Vertebrate Pest Management – advice on rodent control.
- Integrated Pest Management – emphasizes preventive methods that provide economical, long-term solutions to pest problems.
- Nursery and Seed inspections – protecting customers and growers.
- Apiary Registration & Inspections – Inspections are made to sustain the continued health of the bee industry in California, which directly translates to the successful production of numerous crops. A

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program that emphasizes the registration and site location of honeybee colonies in the county. At the request of beekeepers or growers, the Department inspects colonies for potential pest or colony health issues.

- Fresh Fruit, Nut, and Vegetable Quality Control, Honey Quality Control and Egg Quality Control – enforcement of quality standards protecting the consumer. This program ensures compliance with California's minimum standards regarding quality and marketing of all produce commercially grown and/or marketed in the county and state. Direct Marketing regulation and Organic law enforcement are part of a program that provides for local protection to growers, marketers and consumers.
- Certified Producers and Farmers' Market (Direct Marketing) – Markets give the producers of farm products the option of selling directly to the consumer without the requirements of meeting size, pack, container, and labeling requirements (Standardization). These markets give the public a “direct” link to the production of the crop by buying the produce from the grower.
- Organic Producers – The Department is the local enforcement agency concerning the registration, investigation of complaints and auditing of organic producers and handlers.
- Crop Report – California Food and Agricultural Code requirement to publish an accurate and meaningful report concerning the agricultural conditions in El Dorado/Alpine Counties. As required by the California Food and Agricultural Code, the department compiles and records information in the annual crop report regarding the gross production and value of the county's commodities. Various research institutions, schools, banks, agencies and businesses use this valuable information to the benefit of the local economy. Also, disasters to agriculture are surveyed and the information collected is used by other agencies offering disaster relief. Statistics promote and protect the continued production and prosperity of agriculture in El Dorado County and California.

Administration

Administration positions are proportionally allocated to provide oversight, direction and support for Agriculture programs, which include budgeting, accounting, personnel, payroll, purchasing, office support, and administration of contracts through the California Department of Food and Agriculture and private grants. The principal funding source for these programs is the County's share of unclaimed gas tax as authorized by the Food and Agricultural Code § 224(g).

Pesticide Use Enforcement

The pesticide laws and regulations of California require safe, responsible handling of pesticides from the time of purchase through transportation, storage, usage and disposal. The safety of employees, the environment, and the public is of paramount importance in this program. The enforcement of the regulations by this department applies to all agricultural, non-agricultural and structural usage. The more toxic pesticides are regulated under the restricted materials permit program.

The two main revenue sources are the California Department of Food and Agriculture unclaimed gas tax for Pesticide Regulatory Activities pursuant to §224(a) of the Food and Agricultural Code, and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation distribution of the Pesticide Mill Assessment collections in accordance with §12844 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

Weights & Measures

The mission of Weights & Measures is to allow a good-value comparison to the consumer while maintaining fair competition between businesses. Weights & Measures affects everyone's daily life through the inspections

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of all commercially used devices such as gas pumps, scales and scanners, as well as through testing of packages to ensure the product inside the package weighs or measures as much as is stated on the label. The Department also enforces requirements for petroleum products, including antifreeze, brake fluid and motor oil; grades of diesel; and octane levels of gasoline. Weighmaster inspections are intended to deter fraudulent transactions at junk dealers and recyclers and to decrease the sale of stolen property.

The Department’s revenue sources include inspection reimbursement for Service Agents, Petroleum Products Compliance, and Weighmaster Enforcement through the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Division of Measurement Standards, and the annual registration of commercially used devices, such as gasoline dispensers, scales, and propane dispensers.

Wildlife Services

Wildlife Services works to maintain a biologically sound integrated wildlife damage management program, assisting public agencies, businesses, private citizens, schools, property owners, farmers, and ranchers in a cooperative venture between El Dorado/Alpine Counties, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Wildlife Services is intended to provide Federal leadership and skill to resolve wildlife interactions that threaten public health and safety, as well as agricultural, property, and natural resources.

The program primarily focuses on providing technical assistance to prevent wildlife conflicts and remove only the animals causing the problem. The Agricultural Commissioner and the USDA Regional Wildlife Services Supervisor provide administration and oversight. The Department’s appropriations include a contract with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Revenues consist of a portion of unclaimed gas tax from the California Department of Food and Agriculture. The USDA provides 1.0 FTE through contract to match the County’s 1.0 FTE dedicated to this program.

University of California Cooperative Extension Program

University of California Cooperative Extension Office Programs include 4-H Youth Development Staff, Master Gardener Staff, Natural Resources Advisors, Specialty Crop Advisors, and the Forestry Advisor program.

BUDGET SUMMARY BY PROGRAM

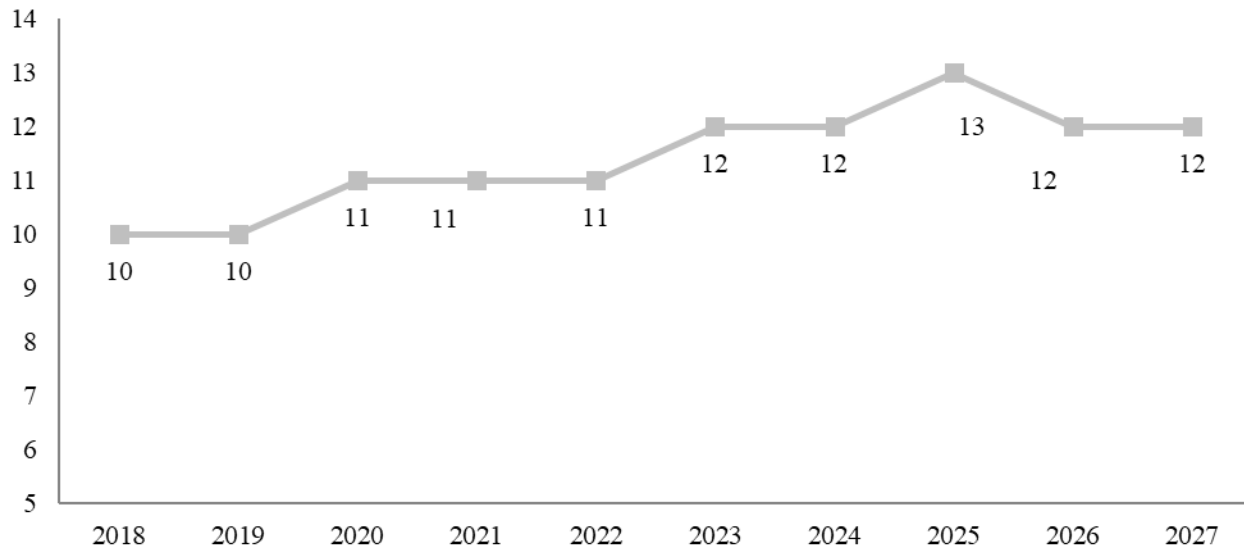
	Appropriations	Revenues	Net County Cost	Staffing
Agricultural Commission	52,546	21,832	30,714	0.2
Agriculture Programs	2,473,267	2,304,985	168,282	5.8
Pesticide Use Enforcement	590,752	320,254	270,498	3.0
Weights & Measures	245,093	198,303	46,790	2.0
Wildlife Services	370,361	141,542	228,819	1.0
UCCE	342,724		342,724	0
Total	4,074,743	2,986,916	1,087,827	12

STAFFING TREND

The proposed staffing allocation for FY 2026-27 is 12.0 FTEs. The Recommended Budget converts the 1.0 FTE Limited Term Biology Technician to a permanent 1.0 FTE Biology Technician. The position will support other County departments with biological studies that are currently contracted out to consultants.

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SOURCES & USES OF FUNDS

The Agriculture Department is funded by a combination of the general fund, state and federal funds, licenses and permit fees, and fees for services. The largest funding source outside the County's General Fund is the unclaimed gas tax. Each year, county agriculture departments receive unclaimed gas tax revenue from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) as partial reimbursement for agricultural program costs. The allocation formula is based on the size of the available funds in the pool and each county's costs for agricultural programs from the previous year. Counties with a higher net county cost receive a larger share of the available funds. The CDFA and DPR distribute these funds late in the fiscal year's third quarter or early in the fourth quarter. The state also reimburses the County with a Mill Assessment for pesticide usage. Due to the timing of these disbursements, accurately forecasting how much the County will receive can be difficult.

Fish and Wildlife's budget consists of \$13,420 from the General Fund, \$10,000 in Fund balance, and \$4,000 in Fines & Penalties. During FY 2026-27, up to \$27,420 is expected to be allocated for special projects and expenses related to the conservation of fish and wildlife, as well as support for fishing derbies.

