



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: 12/18/2018
FROM: Todd Leopold, County Executive Officer
SUBJECT: Proposed County Reorganization - Cooperative Extension, Farm Advisor

REQUESTED ACTION

1. Approve the County Executive Officer's proposed reporting change of the Farm Advisor
2. Direct county staff to bring forward all necessary budgetary revisions and County Code revisions to fully implement the re-organization.

BACKGROUND

On October 9th, 2018, the County Executive Officer brought forward a number of organizational change recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. One recommendation was a change in the direct reporting relationship of the Cooperative Extension, Farm Advisor from the County Executive Officer to the Agriculture Commissioner.

The Board of Supervisors requested that County staff address the concern raised during public comment regarding staff's ability to maintain or access sensitive data provided by UC Extension if this change is made. Currently, certain County staff report to the Farm Advisor and have access to both state and federal systems that maintain highly confidential information. With respect to sensitive data, this office believes this concern can be addressed through existing electronic safeguards and, if necessary, non-disclosure agreements with UC Extension.

This proposed change in the reporting relationship will address three primary issues:

- 1) Improves opportunities for administrative cooperation between the existing staff in the two departments.
- 2) Maintains the same programs and existing service offerings within the Cooperative Extension services.
- 3) Addresses County Human Resource concerns regarding County staff reporting to a non-county employee.

The physical location of these operations residing in the same building will improve collaboration for the benefit of the customers and the key stakeholders they interact with. There will be no staffing change as a result of this reorganization. In addition, this change reduces the number of direct reports to the County Executive Officer, while streamlining the managerial reporting relationship of the organization.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this staff reporting change.

