



# RIVERSIDE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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November 3, 2023

## FEE INCREASE PROPOSAL

The Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office (RCAC) is committed to providing important services that support public health and safety, resilient food supply, agricultural trade, consumer confidence, and a sustainable environment for the Riverside County region.

We recognize the recent economic impacts on regulated businesses, and as we continue to support your business continuity and the regional economic recovery, we need the resources to provide quality services to you and the other members of the regulated industry. RCAC also recognizes the need for notifications and outreach on potential fee increases to allow businesses to financially plan.

This Fee Proposal also demonstrates our commitment to the Board of Supervisors, that cost recovery is a regular part of business by ensuring compliance with Board of Supervisors Resolution Number 2020-144, *A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for Agricultural Services Within the County of Riverside*. This Policy directs departments to recover *the cost of services* from individuals or entities that receive and benefit from the services provided; any exception requires the Board's approval. This Fee Proposal aligns the needed resources with quality service level and represents cost recovery as a regular part of RCAC's fiscal management.

The last service fee approval by the Board was on June 10, 2008. The fees proposed moving forward, will be necessary to address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements and increased employee salary rates.

RCAC has worked to contain costs where possible through business process improvements to enhance efficiency, leverage technology to streamline operations, improve customer service, and increase compliance. RCAC has reduced industry costs by utilizing our multi-faceted employees, consolidating field inspections, and developing additional compliance resources that allow for better industry engagement. In addition, we also apply County and State funding to further mitigate the increases.

Currently, RCAC uses a flat rate fee schedule. Moving forward, our fees will shift to an actual rate reimbursement that will fluctuate depending on staff assignments and employee position and whether overtime is needed to meet industry needs. The rates are described in the table below.

We will present the following fee adjustments to the Board November 28, 2023, for approval to be effective January 1, 2024.

The fee adjustments are attached for your review.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why is RCAC proposing fee adjustments?

We are cognizant of the recent economic impacts on regulated businesses, and as we continue to support your business continuity and the regional economic recovery, we need the resources to provide quality services to you and the other members of the regulated industry. This Proposal also demonstrates RCAC's commitment to the Board that cost recovery is a regular part of business to ensure compliance with Board of Supervisors Resolution Number 2020-144, *A Resolution of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside Adopting an Amended Fee Schedule for Agricultural Services Within the County of Riverside*. This policy directs the department to recover the cost of services from individuals or entities that receive and benefit from the services provided; any exception requires the Board's approval. This Fee Proposal aligns the needed resources with quality service level and represents cost recovery as a regular part of RCAC's fiscal management.

The last Fee Proposal was approved by the Board on June 10, 2008. The new fees proposed will be necessary to address cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements, and to ensure compliance with the aforementioned Board Resolution. The fees proposed attached will be effective January 1, 2024, and will be adjusted on an annual basis thereafter.

### 2. What has RCAC done to contain costs?

The practice of focusing on continuous improvement, implementing operational efficiencies, and prioritizing resources in key areas has positioned RCAC to respond to customer needs and regulatory changes.

RCAC is committed to continuous improvement and partners with stakeholders to identify opportunities and areas for improvement. RCAC strives to enhance program effectiveness and efficiency to achieve positive outcomes and a collective impact. Since the last Fee Proposal, RCAC has improved operational efficiency by leveraging technology and streamlining processes. Innovations include apps for mobile field inspection and customer service.

### 3. How was the Fee Proposal developed?

RCAC conducted a review of State mandates, program operations, inspection frequencies, service levels, and benchmarking to obtain a comprehensive understanding of how our fees compare to similar counties. This Fee Proposal mainly addresses cost increases based on negotiated labor agreements. The County Auditor and Controller reviewed the supporting documentation and the methodology in this proposal to ensure compliance with County policies. The proposed fees constitute an average of 7% increase from the previous fee schedule.

**County of Riverside  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Proposed Fee Schedule**

Description	Current Rate	Hourly Fee (Total Proposed Rate)	Difference
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR III	65.76	62.80	-2.96
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.22	1.46
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	68.04	2.28
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	71.92	6.16
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	82.15	16.39
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.06	4.3
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	73.67	7.91
DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMM.	65.76	96.05	30.29
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.36	1.6
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR III	65.76	67.09	1.33
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	66.84	1.08
DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMM.	65.76	88.70	22.94
SUP AG & STANDARDS INVEST II	65.76	81.21	15.45
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	71.37	5.61
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	68.89	3.13
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.07	4.31
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	69.95	4.19
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.08	4.32
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.00	4.24
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	71.57	5.81
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	68.32	2.56
SUP AG & STANDARDS INVEST II	65.76	78.10	12.34
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.34	1.58
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.03	4.27
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.32	1.56
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	69.42	3.66
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.21	1.45
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	71.32	5.56
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.28	1.52
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.22	1.46
DEPUTY AGRICULTURAL COMM.	65.76	96.32	30.56
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.07	4.31
SUP AG & STANDARDS INVEST II	65.76	80.83	15.07
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.29	1.53
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR III	65.76	67.18	1.42
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.26	1.5
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.06	4.3
SUP AG & STANDARDS INVEST II	65.76	81.17	15.41
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.81	2.05
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	65.75	-0.01
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.11	4.35
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.37	1.61
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	70.00	4.24
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	68.33	2.57
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR III	65.76	61.84	-3.92
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.29	1.53
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	69.96	4.2
AG & STANDARDS INVESTIGATOR IV	65.76	67.26	1.5