

**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE  
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**Angela Godwin**  
Agricultural Commissioner  
Sealer of Weights and Measures

## **County of Mendocino**

### **Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures**

#### **Recruitment Request**

**BOS Meeting Date: February 3, 2026**

**To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors**

**From: Angela J. Godwin, Agricultural Commissioner / Sealer of Weights & Measures**

The Department of Agriculture / Weights & Measures' adopted FY 2025/26 budget does not currently include funding for an additional full-time Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I. Salaries and Benefits are budgeted based on current staffing levels and include anticipated savings from existing vacancies and attrition.

However, the department has three budgeted Extra Help seasonal Agricultural Field Inspector positions, and the UCCE / Farm Advisor program currently has a vacant Agricultural Technician position. We propose combining funding from the two separate departmental budgets to create a single, versatile Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I position that would serve both departments.

#### **Value and Justification for the Position**

Mendocino County's agriculture industry, including wine grapes, cannabis, timber, livestock, and small farms, faces increasing regulatory demands, pest pressures, and public service expectations. The department is responsible for enforcing state and federal laws related to:

- Weights & Measures (device inspections, price verification, fuel quality)
- Pest Exclusion & Detection (quarantine enforcement, trapping, Sudden Oak Death, invasive species)
- Pesticide Use Enforcement
- Fruit & Vegetable Quality Standards
- Permit issuance and compliance for nurseries, hemp, and certified farmers' markets
- Consumer complaints and investigations

A versatile Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I position would provide critical field capacity by performing both regulatory enforcement duties and extension/technical support work. This position would:

- Conduct routine and complaint-driven inspections for Weights & Measures, pest exclusion, nursery/seed certification, and pesticide use
- Assist with trap deployment, invasive pest surveys, and early detection efforts (e.g., Mediterranean fruit fly, European grapevine moth, spotted lanternfly)
- Support UCCE Farm Advisors by providing technical assistance on pest identification, crop sampling, and field demonstrations

- Process permits, collect samples, and respond to public inquiries — reducing wait times and improving compliance rates
- Flexibly support seasonal workload peaks (harvest, pest trapping seasons) without relying exclusively on Extra Help staffing

This shared position is highly cost-effective because it leverages existing budgeted funds from two departments while delivering dual benefits: strengthened regulatory compliance and enhanced support for agricultural research, education, and outreach, while saving General Funds. Filling this role will improve operational efficiency, reduce overtime and backlog, help protect the county's agricultural economy, and strengthen our ability to meet Maintenance of Effort requirements going forward.

An interdepartmental transfer of 1000-series (General Fund) funds from UCCE will be required to cover 50% of this position. Agriculture intends to offset funding for the remaining 50% of the position with grant-related work, where possible, thereby reducing reliance on budgeted extra help.

Total annual cost for the Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I position ranges from \$95,958 to \$116,625, depending on step and longevity (salary plus benefits).

**Recommendation:**

Authorize recruitment and filling of one (1) Agricultural/Measurement Standards Specialist I position pursuant to the County's Strategic Hiring Process at a maximum cost of \$116,625

Thank you for considering this request. I am available to answer any questions.