



**SAN BENITO COUNTY  
AGENDA ITEM  
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger  
District No. 1  
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki  
District No. 2  
Chair

Mindy Sotelo  
District No. 3

Angela Curro  
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez  
District No. 5

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**Item Number: 1.3**

**MEETING DATE:** 06/24/2025

**DEPARTMENT:** AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Lisa Zavala

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Ken Griffin

**SUBJECT:**

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER- K. GRIFFIN, ACTING AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER**

Adopt Resolution ratifying proclamation that a state of emergency exists within the County, the local emergency is due to the presence of thrips and beet leaf hoppers that vector diseases and weevils that feed on the plant and fruit, both may cause significant to catastrophic damage to pepper crops in San Benito County. The state law that went into effect January 1, 2024, restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid applications on various crop groups beyond the label requirements, including peppers. The regulation does allow for an application made in response to a proclaimed local emergency.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 1.1

RESOLUTION NO.: 2025-37

**AGENDA SECTION:**

CONSENT AGENDA

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

The neonicotinoid regulatory package (3 CCR sections 6990-6990.16) that went into effect January 1, 2024, restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides on various crop groups beyond the label requirements. The regulation(s) have restricted such use. The local emergency declaration would supersede these regulations. Applications can be made to address the local emergency declaration by allowing for applications of neonicotinoid pesticides, which would normally be subjected to the restrictions imposed by the regulations indicated above, so that pepper and tomato growers can specifically treat for thrips, beet leaf hoppers and pepper weevils in San Benito County. Western Flower Thrips and Beet Leaf Hoppers must be controlled to prevent Tomato Spotted Wilt Virus (TSWV), Impatiens Necrotic Spot Virus (INSV) and Beet Curly Top Virus (BCTV) infections resulting in crop failure and virus spread. Pepper Weevil must be controlled to prevent feeding on fruit and leaf buds causing destruction of flower buds and immature fruit, premature dropping of young fruit, reducing yields and

contamination of larger fruit. The pepper crop is extremely reliant on the neonicotinoid chemical class and other related products necessary to combat Western Flower Thrips and Pepper Weevil to prevent the spread of diseases and damage and/or catastrophic crop failure. The migration of these pests became of concern to growers as numbers escalated from May 15 - June 1, 2025.

**RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

Yes

**CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

No

**RFP AND BID HISTORY:**

N/A

**LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:**

N/A

**CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):**

N/A

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement**

Yes

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community**

Yes

**BUDGETED:**

N/A

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:**

N/A

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:**

N/A

**SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:**

101.60.1250.1000

**CURRENT FY COST:**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt Resolution ratifying proclamation that a state of emergency exists within the County, the local emergency is due to the presence of thrips and beet leaf hoppers that vector diseases and weevils that feed on the plant and fruit, both may cause significant to catastrophic damage to pepper crops in San Benito County. The state law that went into effect January 1, 2024, restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid applications on various crop groups beyond the label requirements, including peppers. The regulation does allow for an application made in response to a proclaimed local emergency.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Resolution - Tomato Pepper Emergency Declaration](#)  
[Emergency Declaration](#)