



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

**Department of  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Weights and Measures**

**Cato R. Fiksdal**  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

12300 Lower Azusa Road  
Arcadia, California 91006-5872  
<http://acwm.co.la.ca.us>

**Robert G. Atkins**  
Chief Deputy

April 8, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**CONTRACT AGREEMENT NUMBER 02-0728 WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PERTAINING TO THE ERADICATION OF RED IMPORTED  
FIRE ANT (RIFA) FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
(ALL DISTRICTS) ( 3-VOTES)**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Approve the accompanying agreement with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) for the eradication of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) at \$1,912,512 for the period of July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004.
2. Authorize the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures to act as the agent for the County to sign and execute amendments as may be necessary to complete the Red Imported Fire Ant program described in this agreement not to exceed 10% of the contract.
3. Instruct the Chair to sign upon presentation and to return the standard agreement #02-0728 to the Department along with a copy of the minute order.

**PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This action will enable the Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures Department (ACWM) to continue its Red Imported Fire Ant eradication efforts in Los Angeles County through the detection of new sites, responding to public calls, and treatment and monitoring of existing infested sites.

There are 580 RIFA infested sites throughout Los Angeles County including the cities of Azusa, Arcadia, city of Industry, Walnut, West Covina, Diamond Bar, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs, Cerritos, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Lakewood, Long Beach, San Fernando, and Los Angeles City in the communities of Arleta, Chatsworth, Granada Hills, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, Panorama City, Sylmar, and Van Nuys, and the county unincorporated areas of La Puente, Rowland Heights, and Whittier.

The ants have been found infesting residential neighborhoods, schools, parks, athletic fields, golf courses, cemeteries, church properties, commercial areas, and plant nurseries. All known infestations have been treated and semiannually monitored. Treatments will continue until no Red Imported Fire Ants are found. Semiannual monitoring inspections will continue for two years after the last ant is found.

The extensive history of this pest in the Southeast states clearly indicates the need for quick and decisive action to eradicate ant infestations. This contract will allow ACWM to continue its proactive position in eradicating infestations. ACWM has consulted with all the involved cities and continues to work collaboratively with them.

### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS**

This agreement supports the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility. Service is enhanced to Los Angeles County residents through a locally administrated program. There is an increase in responsiveness that the ACWM provides to residents in the treatment, monitoring, and the ultimate eradication of RIFA at their homes and public recreation areas.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

There is no effect on the Department's net County cost.

This two-year contract will extend RIFA eradication efforts from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2004 at \$1,912,512.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/ LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

It is the mission of this Department to prevent the establishment of noxious pests that do not currently reside in Los Angeles County. Red Imported Fire Ants are pests because of their multiple stings to human beings and pets, damage to property, and their overall negative effect on the environment.

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The contract has been reviewed by County Counsel and is approved as to form and contracting process.

**IMPACT OF CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECT)**

All positions in the program are fully revenue offset.

**CONCLUSION**

When approved, this Department requires (5) signed copies along with the minute order authorizing the Chair to sign. Our Department will forward the documents to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Contracts Office.

Respectfully submitted,

Cato R. Fiksdal  
Agricultural Commissioner/  
Director of Weights and Measures

CRF:RGA:RGD:DP:el

Attachments: (5)

c:      CAO  
          County Counsel  
          Deputies  
          CAO Analyst  
          Executive Office