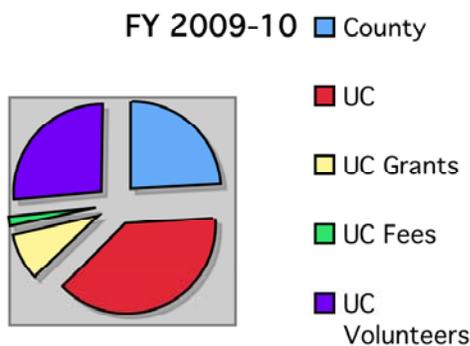


Draft Plan
Foothill County's – UC Cooperative Extension Multi-County Partnership
Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Tuolumne

Introduction

This collaborative program includes the majority of funding through UC with a smaller fractional contribution from counties. In this Foothills partnership a dollar of county money leverages two dollars of UC funds and a dollar's worth of Cooperative Extension volunteer time (from 4-H and Master Gardener's and Master Food Preserver's).



Cooperative Extension's focus is on local delivery of science-based solutions to problems facing the community and identification of locally relevant problems in need of UC research solutions.

Important program areas serving constituents in California's counties include but are not limited to: agriculture; natural resources and the environment; water; pest management; nutrition and the prevention of diabetes and obesity; and youth development including science literacy and citizenship.

Counties and the University continue to face significant budget reductions. We're proposing a cost sharing structure that will:

- Lower administrative costs
- Simplify the partnership for counties and UC
- Return administrative resources to local programs
- Maintain the collaborative partnership between counties and Cooperative Extension
- Transfer employees, transportation and information technology responsibilities to UC
- Reduce space requirements
- Improve the ability of UC to make additional investments in the four-county Foothill partnership

Proposal

To enter into a multiple-county partnership through an Interlocal Agreement (IA) thereby expanding the boundaries of the Cooperative Extension program from four independent single counties to one four-county program.

Programs will be provided to each member county in approximate proportion to their financial contributions to the organization.

There will be a single Director that oversees the four county program. The Director will work with an Advisory Council consisting of the CAO or his/her representative, a Supervisor and an Alternate Supervisor from each member county. The Advisory Council will meet a minimum of two times per year and review the past year's impacts on the area, and develop a plan of work and budget for the following year. The Director will no longer be a county Department Head and would now work with the Advisory Council to maintain the connections with county government.

Expanding the boundaries to include the four counties will allow for more program delivery throughout the region, using non-county vehicles, and for savings associated with fewer part-time employees with full-time benefits, fewer full-service locations, and a smaller investment in Directors.

For this discussion we're proposing a headquarters in El Dorado County open full time. Telephone calls from each county will be received at the headquarters location. Satellite facilities in Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne would be open part-time while providing full-time space for Cooperative Extension Advisor faculty and Program Representatives to stage their local programs.

All employees, except under very special circumstances, will become UC employees, thus alleviating the county of human resources, union, benefits and liability costs associated with being the employer. UC will use an expedited hiring process for many of those hires that are currently county employees performing unique programmatic work (Program Representatives) for Cooperative Extension. For employees that would have major changes in job assignments, these positions would require an open recruitment to meet UC hiring policy.

A review suggests those employees who would be assimilated will be at very similar salaries. Retirement benefits are compatible between PERS and UC Benefits. We believe this system will allow us to provide additional programs with less administration and fewer staff positions.

UC will assume the costs and liability associated with running Cooperative Extension programs. Facility space, rates and contracts will be negotiated between the parties and total space required is expected to shrink due to consolidation and limited public hours in some areas. Additional discussion is needed to explore the cost to UC from assimilating current and future liability for employees, retirement and transportation.

Additional documents provided include an *Objective page*, *Draft Interlocal Agreement* and an *Overview of Current & Proposed Positions & Programs*. I look forward to exploring this draft proposal with you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DKG' followed by a stylized flourish.