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Tehama County supervisors approve survey for agricultural pest



Pictured is the Tehama County Administration building. (DN File)

By **JAKE HUTCHISON** | jhutchison@redbluffdailynews.com | Red Bluff Daily News

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RED BLUFF — The Tehama County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday in favor of taking part in a survey to check for a tree infesting pest locally.

The statewide survey brings together multiple counties that wish to take part in

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Tehama County Agricultural Commissioner Doni Rulofson gave a brief talk on the survey and why it is necessary for the county to join the statewide project.

“What happens is it’s established in LA, Riverside, Orange and Ventura counties,” Rulofson said. “In order to gather enough information for quarantines to be set up there needs to be a statewide survey.”

Rulofson said Tehama County likely has too hot a climate for the pest but it would still be worth conducting the survey by setting up traps.

“The shothole borer has affected over 500 species of trees already,” Rulofson said. “We’re probably a little warm but I still want to put out a survey to be safe.”

Rulofson said there are two types of shothole borer: Polyphagous and Kuroshio.

The board had little discussion on the matter before voting in favor of the survey.

In terms of financial impact to the county, a one-time payment is required and cannot go above \$10,763.

The partnership to conduct the survey is with the University of California as part of its pest management program. Surveyors place traps for the shothole borer and determine whether they are a threat to local agriculture based on the findings.

According to the agreement, the county can terminate the deal with a 30-day written notice.

The Tehama County Board of Supervisors meets at 10 a.m. Tuesday at 727 Oak St. in Red Bluff. Meetings are free and open to the public. However, certain guidelines are in place due to the pandemic. The number of members from the public is limited and all participants must wear masks.

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Jake Hutchison | Reporter

Jake is a reporter by day, musician and craft beer enthusiast by night. He spends his weekends hiking and biking around Chico as well as hanging out with his family and friends.

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