

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

119




FROM: Agricultural Commissioner's Office and
Department of Facilities Management
SUBJECT: County Agricultural Monument

SUBMITTAL DATE:
May 19, 2006

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorize the Department of Facilities Management to enter into a contract with The Patrician Group for an amount not to exceed \$24,998.00 to construct and install an agricultural monument in the courtyard of the Riverside County Administrative Center;
2. Authorize the Director of Facilities Management to administer the contract in accordance with Board Policy B-11;
3. Receive and file this update regarding the proposed agricultural monument.

(Cont'd)


John Snyder, Agricultural Commissioner/
Sealer of Weights and Measures

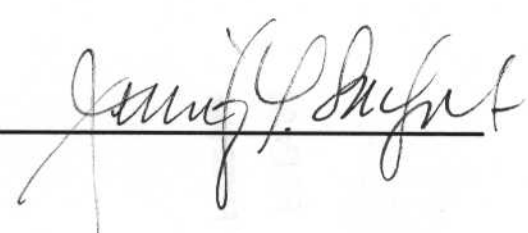


Robert Field, Director
Department of Facilities Management

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$24,998.00	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ -0-	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ -0-	For Fiscal Year:	2005/06
SOURCE OF FUNDS: Private Sector Contributions			Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Requires 4/5 Vote	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: **APPROVE**

County Executive Office Signature



Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.75, 9/14/04

District:

Agenda Number:

3.7

BACKGROUND: On September 14, 2004, the Board of Supervisors approved the installation of a County Agricultural Monument that will also commemorate the Robert M. Howie Plaza. Additionally, the Board authorized the Agricultural Commissioner to raise funds to cover the costs of this monument and to establish a special account to receive these funds. Having successfully completed the task of collecting the necessary funds, the Agricultural Commissioner now stands ready to fund the construction and placement of the monument.

Agriculture plays a vital role in Riverside County, both economically and culturally, thanks in large part to the many contributions made by Robert M. Howie. Mr. Howie was Riverside County's Agricultural Commissioner for 28 years. During his tenure, Mr. Howie helped establish Riverside County as one of the top ten agricultural counties in California through vigorous promotion of agriculture that led to substantial increases in citrus, dairy products, vegetables, grapes, eggs and nursery stock.

In 1983, in recognition of Mr. Howie's many years of service and contributions to Riverside County agriculture, the Board of Supervisors dedicated the plaza area immediately outside the County Administrative Center (CAC) as the Robert M. Howie Plaza. The plaza consisted of several orange trees and a modest monument briefly describing Mr. Howie's contributions to our county.

Due to the construction of the CAC annex, the plaza was relocated to the northwest corner of the CAC complex. Nine Washington Navel orange trees have been planted and are prospering in the plaza. Based on input from County staff, many interested supporters, and stakeholders within the agricultural community, a new monument was proposed to honor both the agricultural community and Mr. Howie.

The monument was conceptually designed by The Patrician Group to compliment the existing architecture of the CAC complex. It will consist of a cast in place concrete bench sheathed in 3/4" blue moon granite with a stucco base. A concrete block column clad in 12" square granite tiles will have a cast bronze medallion in bas-relief of Mr. Howie's likeness. The monument will also feature sand blasted and color filled text (designed to contrast with the madura gold granite of the column) highlighting various milestones in the development of agriculture in Riverside County and the career of Mr. Howie. Examples of some of the quotes, milestones, and statistics that are being considered for inclusion as text printed on the granite column of the monument are attached.

In an on-going display of support for this project, The Patrician Group has extended their initial proposal from September of 2004, despite increased costs for labor and materials. The total cost of the project is \$24,998.00.

The list of contributors to the Robert M. Howie Monument fund is impressively diverse and includes individual members of the Board of Supervisors, agriculturalists from throughout the County, friends and associates of Mr. Howie, and many citizens who simply wish to commemorate the important role of agriculture in Riverside County. No additional county funds are being requested for this project.

Upon completion of the construction of the monument, a dedication ceremony is planned at which the many generous contributors to this project will be publicly recognized. Addressing those present will be representatives from the Board of Supervisors, the agricultural community, the current Agricultural Commissioner, and Mr. Robert M. Howie himself.

Attached are examples of some of the quotes, milestones, and statistics that are being considered for inclusion as text printed on the granite column of the monument. It is recommended that final monument text wording be determined by a committee composed of a member of the Board of Supervisors, the Agricultural Commissioner, the Director of Facilities Management, and the Public Information Officer.

With contingencies and the anticipated cost of the dedication ceremony, the total project cost is \$27,998.00. All project management costs are being waived by the Department of Facilities Management. To date, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office has collected \$28,029.00 from the local agricultural community, friends, and associates and supporters of Mr. Howie and this endeavor. No additional County funds are being requested, and the project will have no impact upon the County's General Fund.

PROJECT BUDGET

Design/construction	\$24,998.00
Contingency (10%)	\$2,500.00
Dedication ceremony	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total:	\$27,998.00

ATTACHMENT

Form 11: County Agricultural Monument

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TEXT CONCEPTS FOR THE
ROBERT M. HOWIE MONUMENT

1873 – Eliza Tibbets arrives in Riverside with two navel orange trees from the U.S. government propagation grounds in Washington D.C. Imported from Bahia, Brazil, this variety would later be known as the Washington Navel. The introduction and propagation of these trees placed Riverside County at the center of California's citrus boom of the late 1880's.

1881 – California Legislature passes "An Act to promote and protect the horticultural interests of the State." This is Act introduced the concept of agricultural regulations at the county level.

1883 – Riverside County's first Board of Horticultural Commissioners is appointed. Primarily involved in agricultural pest prevention and eradication, this Board provides the foundation for the future Office of the Agricultural Commissioner.

1908 – Robert P. Cundiff is named the first Agricultural Commissioner of Riverside County. Replacing a three member panel, the Commissioner bears sole responsibility for the protection and promotion of agriculture within the county.

1918 – The Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office institutes a pesticide use reporting program that provides a means to track the volume and variety of pesticides applied to commodities grown in the county. Fifty years later, Riverside County personnel would assist in developing legislation to require similar reporting statewide.

1934 – Robert M. Howie, a 1930 graduate of Riverside Poly High School accepts a position as an agricultural inspector with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in the Blythe District.

1949 – The first statewide regulations governing the handling and use of pesticides are enacted. Responsibility for local enforcement lies with the County Agricultural Commissioner.

1950 – In an effort to allow growers in the Coachella Valley to export tomato plants to other parts of the state without the risk of spreading pests or disease, the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office developed field fumigation techniques that became and remained industry standards for over five decades.

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1954 – With twenty years of experience, Robert M. Howie is appointed Agricultural Commissioner by the Riverside County Board of Supervisors.

1962 – Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner Robert M. Howie participates in a month long fact finding, agricultural trade development and goodwill tour of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

1972 – Enforcement of statewide regulations to protect employees, fieldworker's and the environment from exposure to pesticides becomes the responsibility of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

1973 – The United Farm Workers' Union organizes protests, strikes and boycotts of lettuce and grapes in the Coachella Valley.

1975 – Riverside County citrus acreage peaks at 54,372 producing acres.

1982 – Robert M. Howie retires from the Office of the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, stating, "It has been a great privilege for me to have been associated with and served the agricultural industry of Riverside County for over 48 years. With a few momentary exceptions, these many years have been a constant enjoyment!"

Between the appointment of Robert M. Howie as Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner in 1954 and his retirement in 1982:

- Total valuation of crops grown in Riverside County increased by 650%.
- Citrus acreage increased by over 200%.
- Total agricultural income in the Coachella Valley increased by 900%.
- County wide value of nursery stock increased by 1,100%.

1983 – The Riverside County Farm Bureau establishes the Robert M. Howie Award, presented annually to individuals that has provided outstanding service to Riverside Agriculture. The Award was created to remind others of the dedication that Mr. Howie demonstrated and to recognize and encourage that kind of dedication in others.

1983 – The original Robert M. Howie Citrus Plaza is dedicated on the southwest side of the Riverside County Administrative Center.

2006 – Re-dedication of the Robert M. Howie Plaza and Monument.