



Counties of Inyo & Mono

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The Agriculture Department is the local enforcement agency for the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. As such, any pesticide activities that may be associated with the construction and operation of the HHSEGS would need to be permitted through our office. Inspectors from our department would also have to make occasional visits to inspect pesticide applications, storage, and records. Even if no pesticides were used, any type of exposure to a pesticide or microbial agent that results in medical treatment must be investigated by our office. This includes cleaning products such as bleach or chlorine. Each of these concerns extend outside of the project itself, as any increase in population increases these issues by an equal proportion.

The Agriculture and Weights & Measures Department is tasked with the registration and inspection of all weighing and measuring devices used commercially within Inyo County. Some examples of devices that our department inspects include gas pumps, electric and gas submeters, price scanners, counter scales, vehicle scales, and aggregate hopper scales. Registration fees collected by our department for these devices fund the inspections and complaint investigations associated with commercial activity. These fees are flat no matter where the device is located within the county. An influx of new registrations from a remote area of Inyo County would make this program difficult to sustain based on current fees.

The HHSEGS construction will likely employ some sort of scales; almost all construction projects use vehicle and hopper scales to some extent for the weighing of trucks and construction materials. Our department also regulates weighmasters, which are employees who are licensed to certify the weight of a vehicle or load. Currently, weights and measures activities in southeastern Inyo County are limited to a few days per year due to the sparse population and commercial activity. Additional visits are required when the department receives complaints from consumers. Effects on our department due to area growth are difficult to gauge. The influx of construction personnel into the area may expand current businesses and encourage new businesses to establish in the area, such as gas stations, stores, or trailer parks. This may require longer and more frequent trips by department personnel to the area. An additional gas station may require one day per year of inspections, responses to complaints, and associated administrative work. Conversely, a trailer park with 100 sites may add weeks of weights and measures work to an already busy inspector due to inspection of gas and electric submeters, inspection of gas delivery truck meters to serve these customers.