



Julie Henderson
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Gravin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

December 8, 2021

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Members Present (10): **Ronald Berg**–Pesticide Dealers, **Margaret Ellis**–Board of Trustees of the California State University System, **John Erisey**–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, **Glen Foth**–Commercial Applicators, **Dan Gudgel**–Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, **Phil Mullins**–Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, **Kenneth Oneto**–Producers, **Matt Scally**–Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners, **Stephen Scheer**–California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, **Wayne Steel**–Pesticide Registrants

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Staff (6): **Joseph Damiano**–Enforcement Headquarters Branch Chief, **Laurie Brajkovich**–Environmental Program Manager, **Alicia Scott**–Senior Environmental Scientist, **Laura Pauli**–Staff Services Manager, **Kenneth King**–Staff Services Analyst, **Rebecca Olson**–Staff Services Analyst

Guests (16): **Shafeesha Ali**–DPR Worker Health & Safety, **Megan Corcoran**–PAPA/AAMSI, **Izabella Czaja**–DPR Licensing & Certification, **Nathan Desjarlais**–DPR Enforcement HQ Branch, **Ken Everett**–DPR Assistant Director, Pesticide Programs Division, **Terry Gage**–California Agricultural Aircraft Association, **Lucy Graham**–DPR Worker Health & Safety, **Lisa Herbert**–Agricultural Commissioner Sutter County, **Emily Hesselgrave**–CAC Office Orange County, **Michael Huffman**–APCAC Member Alternate, **Michel Oriel**–DPR Worker Health & Safety, **Otto Rieger**–CAC Office Orange County, **Jhalendra Rijal**–University of California, **Eric Stein**–Western Plant Health, **Jessica Teague**–DPR Licensing & Certification, **Crystelle Turlo**–CAPCA

Members Absent (2): **Jeanette Heinrichs**–General Public, **Timothy Smith**–Board of Governors of the California Community College System

I. Welcome – Laurie Brajkovich, DPR-ENFHQ

II. Familiarizing Attendees with Using Zoom – Kenneth King, DPR-ENFHQ

Instructions and guidelines for today’s APCAC live cast (via Zoom software) quarterly meeting.

III. Administrative Topics – Laurie Brajkovich, DPR Licensing and Certification Program

- Introductions
- Izabella Czaja is the new lead/contact person for DPR’s continuing education team.
- September meeting notes: There were no requested revisions to the September 2021 APCAC meeting notes.

IV. DPR Update – Joseph Damiano, DPR-ENFHQ

- Julie Henderson, formerly Acting Director, has been appointed Director of DPR.
- Certification and Training Update:
 - In January 2017, U.S. EPA published revisions to 40 CFR Part 171 which details the requirements for state programs that certify applicators of restricted use pesticides.
 - U.S. EPA requires the submission of a State Plan detailing how certifying state agencies meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 171.
 - Initial submission of California's State Plan detailing how DPR has met the requirements of the revised 40 CFR Part 171 was submitted to U.S. EPA Region 9 in May 2020 for feedback.
 - Between August 2020 and January 2021, DPR worked cooperatively with U.S. EPA Region 9 to ensure DPR's State Plan met all requirements of the revised 40 CFR Part 171 prior to its final submission.
 - DPR's final State Plan was submitted to U.S. EPA Headquarters for review in May 2021.
 - U.S. EPA Headquarters has until March 2022 to review State Plans.
 - The date for implementation of DPR’s State Plan is January 2024.
- Pesticide Notification System Update – Nino Yanga, DPR Pesticides Programs
 - The 2021-2022 state budget allocated \$10 million to DPR to begin the development of a statewide pesticide notification system, with the intent to provide communities more transparent and equitable access to information about pesticides used around them so they can take additional precautions they want to protect their health.
 - DPR is currently gathering information and collecting public input on the development of a statewide notification program. Feedback from public webinars in November 2021 is currently being compiled, and further public input will be gathered from workshops that will begin in early 2022. The projected timeline includes pilot projects in 2022-2023, design in 2022, IT development in 2022-2023, rulemaking in 2022-2023, and launch in 2023-2024.
 - The guiding principles of the notification network are to:
 - Protect public health.
 - Improve equity and transparency.
 - Complement existing regulations.
 - Prioritize information about pesticide applications that have greater

- health impact.
- Encourage communication between growers, applicators, local government, and nearby communities.
- For updates on the [Pesticide Notification System](#) project, check the DPR website.
- APCAC members and other interested parties are encouraged to participate in the 2022 workshops.

V. The California Medical Supervision Program Regulatory Proposal to Amend Title 3 CCR 6728 – Jag Sahota, Worker Health and Safety Branch

- The California Medical Supervision Program was established in 1974 with the goal of preventing the accumulation of cholinesterase (ChE) in pesticide handlers which results from multiple exposures to organophosphate (OP) and carbamate (CB) pesticides with the label signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING.”
- DPR jointly administers the program with the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).
- If an employee mixes, loads, or applies OP and/or CB pesticides used for production of an agricultural plant commodity, and the pesticide label has the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING,” and the employee does this for more than six consecutive days in a 30-day period, then the employee must be in the Medical Supervision Program.
- Employers have a written agreement with a physician who agrees to provide medical supervision and with handler employees who are exposed to OP and/or CB pesticides. Employers keep the written agreement and send a copy to the CAC.
- The medical supervisor establishes pre-exposure red blood cell and plasma ChE values in the pesticide handlers and measures their ChE levels at certain intervals after they begin working with the pesticides. Any tests indicating and excessive exposure results in the physician recommending actions to be taken by the employer to prevent further exposure until the employee’s ChE levels fully recover. The employee can return to work with ChE-inhibiting pesticides after recovery to 80% or more of both red blood cell and plasma baselines.
- For the baseline, OEHHA recommends that physicians use the average of two exposure-free tests, taken 3-14 days apart, after the employee has not been exposed to any ChE inhibitors for at least 30 days.
- DPR proposes to amend Title 3 CCR 6728(c)(1) to add a 30-day exposure-free period in order to align the current employers’ responsibility with the OEHHA recommendations made to physicians. DPR also proposes to amend Title 3 CCR 6728(b) to specify that the physician be registered as a medical supervisor with OEHHA.
- DPR is currently in the pre-notice stage, and anticipates noticing these regulations for public comment early in 2022.

VI. DPR Licensing and Certification Update – Laura Pauli, DPR Licensing and Certification Program

- DPR's Licensing and Certification Program is now offering computer-based exams for all individual licenses and certificates at testing centers statewide. DPR went live with QAC/QAL/DDA exams in August 2020, and on November 30, 2021 the remaining PCA and Pest Control Pilot exams were added. All exams underwent an extensive review of the question pools to make sure all answers can be found in the study guide materials. All applications/payments are still mailed to and processed by DPR.
- In July 2021, 9,688 renewal packets were mailed to individual license/certificate holders with last names beginning with M-Z. As of today, 43% of the packets have been returned to DPR for processing, and 39% have been renewed. In September 1,853 packets were mailed to businesses; 54% have been returned to DPR and 45% have been renewed.
- DPR Licensing is currently at a 4 week renewal processing time, and may reach 8 weeks or more as the season progresses. Applicants were encouraged to mail in their paperwork and payment on or before November 1 in order to be renewed by the end of the year. Businesses and their Qualified Persons were encouraged to submit their applications by October 1 to be able to register with the county before January 1.
- For renewal status, applicants can check with their financial institution; payment processing of their renewal fees means it has been received by DPR and is in the queue for review and processing. Licensing posts weekly [2021 Renewal Season Updates](#) on the DPR website.

VII. Cannabis and Hemp Program Update – Rachel Kubiak, DPR Cannabis and Hemp Program

- DPR's Cannabis Program is funded by state cannabis taxes. There are now nine staff consisting of six enforcement staff, one manager, one auditor, and one attorney. These staff conduct marketplace inspections and provide recommendations to the Department of Cannabis Control. The program also obtained \$1 million in yearly funding for CACs.
- This year California established the Department of Cannabis Control, a consolidation of the cannabis licensing entities.
- The passage of Assembly Bill 45 legalized hemp and CBD in food, beverage, and dietary supplements in California.

VIII. WeedCUT: An online decision support tool for non-herbicide weed control techniques in a wildland setting – Dr. Jutta Burger, California Invasive Plant Council

- [WeedCUT \(Weed Control User Tool\)](#) is an online decision support tool, launched in June 2021, for weed control methods that do not include the use of herbicides. The project was funded by a DPR Alliance Grant, and is maintained by UC IPM and updated and edited by CAL-IPC.
- WeedCUT was developed for use predominantly in wildland settings such as national and county parks. Land managers are faced with restrictions and increased

concerns about chronic exposure of wildlife to pesticides, and there were few resources available about non-herbicide weed control techniques.

- WeedCUT provides links to 21 best management practices and 18 biological control targets. Each technique has its own dedicated page, and information can be filtered by plant and site characteristics. Efficacy ratings are included so users can assess if a given strategy is the best management practice for a particular weed and site.
- An additional DPR Alliance Grant is funding the expansion of WeedCUT to include herbicide application techniques. CAL-IPC is also planning to expand the tool to include all CA invasive plant species.

IX. DPR Air Monitoring Program Update – Maziar Kandelous, DPR Environmental Monitoring Branch

- DPR conducts air monitoring by site application (goes to a site and monitors air concentration for hours to days), seasonal studies (over weeks to months with sampling frequency of a few days per week), and long-term (over years of study with a weekly sampling frequency).
- DPR has two active long term studies:
 - Air Monitoring Network (AMN) began in 2011, monitoring for 31 pesticides and 5 breakdown products at schools located in Watsonville, Shafter, Santa Maria, and Oxnard.
 - Monitoring of 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D) began in 2016 in Merced and Fresno counties.
- Monitoring for the fumigants chloropicrin, MITC, and multi-pesticide residues is performed using Met One Instrument's P-SASS. This is exclusive to AMN. Monitoring for 1,3-D and methyl bromide is performed using Xonteck's Model 901 canister sampler.
- All instruments are checked for proper flow rates at the beginning of each sampling. Quarterly field maintenance is performed to check other systems and sensors. The Air Resources Board conducts an independent audit every few years, and publishes a report for public review.
- All samples are analyzed by CDFA laboratories. Results are returned to DPR for statistical analysis which is published quarterly on the DPR website.

X. Next Meeting Agenda

Date of next meeting: March 9, 2022 – Location TBD

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Possible Topics:

- Licensing/Renewal Season update
- Pesticide Notification update

Please direct questions to Laurie Brajkovich at 916-603-7796 or via email at Laurie.Brajkovich@cdpr.ca.gov.