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PROGRESS REPORT

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION



*bring home the green*

DPR's leadership team (the photo was taken in the redwood grove that graces the courtyard of the Cal/EPA headquarters building), from left to right:

**Tobi Jones**

*Assistant Director*

**Chris Reardon**

*Director of Legislation*

**Paul Gosselin**

*Chief Deputy Director*

**Joanne Payan**

*Assistant Director*

**Mark Rentz**

*Deputy Director*

**Mary-Ann Warmerdam**

*Director*

**Jerry Campbell**

*Assistant Director*



The Department of Pesticide Regulation's 350 employees (among State government's 200,000-plus workers) have the responsibility of ensuring the safe use of pesticides, and encouraging the use of less risky ways of fighting pests. This publication, our biennial Progress Report, reviews the accomplishments of the team assembled at DPR. In the pages that follow, you will meet a few DPR employees. They are emblematic of DPR's dedicated staff and its leadership team.

As Margaret Meade once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." We believe that at DPR, 350 people are changing our world for the better, a little bit at a time.

# *Bring it home*

Under Governor Schwarzenegger, the Department of Pesticide Regulation has entered an exciting new era. Our budget is stable. Programs for the regulated community and public are improving and changing to meet the needs of the 21st Century. Enforcement is more proactive and consistent. We continue to work closely with our partners, the County Agricultural Commissioners, to fine-tune the best pesticide regulatory system in the nation.

Even against this backdrop of progress, there are always opportunities for improvement. Air and water quality issues are more urgent than ever. Our farmers face new pest problems here and intense competition from abroad. Least-toxic pest management becomes more complex and critical as the boundaries blur between agriculture and residential neighborhoods.

Several months ago, in a newspaper commentary, I introduced the phrase, “Bring home the green.” My point is that we can no longer assume that challenges involving the environment, economy and social equity are separate issues, or someone else’s problem. California’s manicured urban landscapes and farms may seem to have little in common, yet both affect our air and water quality, depending on how we tend our yards and crops. A robust economy and a safe environment are more closely related now than ever. And every community, large and small, deserves a fair share of California’s eco-wealth. In other words, we must create the same balance that characterizes any healthy, sustainable ecosystem.

“Eco” traces its roots to the Greek word “oikos.” In ancient times, it was the basic unit of society – what we think of today as home or household. But the Greeks had a much broader view of their personal environment. In addition to relatives, oikos involved friends, neighbors, and business. It was the model of a self-sustaining lifestyle.

Now we seek to put that ancient wisdom into a context that fits the complexities of the 21st century. “Bringing home the green” means building a more sustainable society – a society that affords to all its members clean air and water, safe and nutritious food, and economic opportunity to create a better life for themselves and their children.

“Bringing home the green” also means that the first step toward achieving these lofty goals begins with day-to-day decisions on the farm, in our neighborhoods, and on our doorsteps. As Mother Teresa said, “We cannot do great things in this life; we can only do small things with great love.”



Mary-Ann Warmerdam  
*DPR Director*