

Pollinator Protection—A California Update

February 5, 2020

Speakers

Val Dolcini was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom as Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation on October 14, 2019. He had served as the Acting Director since June 2019. He had also served as the Deputy Secretary for Agriculture at the California Environmental Protection Agency, following his appointment to that position by Governor Newsom in March 2019. A fifth-generation Californian, Dolcini brings to the Department more than two decades of agricultural policy and management experience in the state, federal and nonprofit sectors. Prior to joining CalEPA, Dolcini served as President and CEO of the Pollinator Partnership, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and promotion of pollinators through conservation, education, and research. From 2009 to 2017, he served in state and national leadership positions at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, first as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency in California and then as the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency in Washington, D.C. where he oversaw a variety of national initiatives designed to support farmers and ranchers in all 50 states. Dolcini earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history at San Francisco State University in 1985 and a Juris Doctor degree from Golden Gate University School of Law in 1993. <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>

Patricia Bohls is an Environmental Scientist with the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Bee Safe Program since December of 2018. Previously, she was an adjunct professor for Napa Valley College teaching ecology and non-majors biology and for Diablo Valley College teaching molecular and cellular biology. In 2017, she earned her M.S. in Entomology from UC Davis, researching honey bees (*Apis mellifera*) and *Varroa destructor*. <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pollinators/index.html>
CONTACT: Patricia.Bohls@cdfa.ca.gov

Peggy Byerly is a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Enforcement Branch of the Department of Pesticide Regulation since 2001. Previously, she worked for the Agricultural Commissioner's office in Los Angeles County, and later for San Joaquin County. Peggy earned her Bachelor's degree in Fruit Industries-Agriculture from Cal Poly Pomona. <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/pollinators/>
CONTACT: Peggy.Byerly@cdpr.ca.gov

Tim Pelican is the Agricultural Commissioner of San Joaquin County. Pelican attended South Dakota State University and, in 1983, graduated with a degree in biology, with an emphasis in horticulture. His first position out of college was with a nursery in Huron, S.D. He worked for a few other companies and was self-employed for a time as a landscape designer. He moved to California in 1997 and worked as a contract forester for Pacific Gas and Electric Co. He later joined the agricultural commissioner's office in Tuolumne County. Not a big farming county, he got a lot of experience with weights and measures and also worked on gypsy moth control around Sonora Pass, in the High Sierra off Highway 108, and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite. He left Tuolumne County in 2008, following his boss, former Tuolumne County Ag Commissioner Gary Caseri, to Stanislaus County. In Stanislaus, he was a deputy agricultural commissioner and managed the pest detection and exclusion, and the fruit and vegetable standards programs. He left Stanislaus County in October 2014, upon being hired as commissioner for San Joaquin County. A Modesto resident, he is married, has three sons and three grandsons.
<https://www.sjgov.org/agcomm/default> CONTACT: tpelican@sjgov.org (209) 953-6000

Kelly Rourke is the Director of Programs and Operations with the Pollinator Partnership. She has loved nature, in all its capacities, since she was a young girl growing up in upstate New York. Now settled in San Francisco, she has been able to explore and appreciate a very different environment. Kelly holds an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies and a minor in Anthropology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. She has also received a Master's of Science in Environmental Management (Ecology Concentration) from the University of San Francisco. Her background in ecology, conservation, and culture has propelled her career in the non-profit sector. Prior to Pollinator Partnership (P2), Kelly worked at another Bay Area-based environmental non-profit called Conservación Patagónica (CP). CP's mission is to establish national parks in Chile and Argentina where there are not only fragile ecosystems, but also, complex cultural and societal struggles. Kelly manages the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC), National Pollinator Week, www.pollinator.org, and P2 grants and scholarships. <https://www.pollinator.org/about>