



Department of Pesticide Regulation

Gavin Newsom
Governor

Jared Blumenfeld
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Meeting Summary June 9, 2021 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Members Present (8): **Lisa Blecker**–University of California, **Margaret Ellis**–Board of Trustees of the California State University System, **John Erisey**–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, **Glen Foth**–Commercial Applicators, **Phil Mullins**–Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, **Kenneth Oneto**–Producers, **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 (12): **Ruthann Anderson**–California Association of Pest Control Advisers, **Ruben Arroyo**–Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, **Eric Denmark**–DPR IPM Branch, **Nathan Desjarlais**–DPR Enforcement HQ Branch, **Ken Everett**–DPR Assistant Director, Pesticide Programs Division **Terry Gage**–California Agricultural Aircraft Association, **Anson Main**–DPR Environmental Monitoring Branch, **James Nakashima**–Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, **Minh Pham**–DPR Environmental Monitoring Branch, **Eric Stein**–Western Plant Health, **Byron Tam**–DPR IPM Branch, **Jessica Teague**–Environmental Scientist

Members Absent (5): **Ronald Berg**–Pesticide Dealers, **Dan Gudgel**–Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, **Jeanette Heinrichs**–General Public, **Matt Scally**–Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners, **Timothy Smith**–Board of Governors of the California Community College System

I. Welcome – Laurie Brajkovich, Environmental Program Manager, 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-ENFHQ

- Introductions
- March meeting notes: There were no requested revisions to the March 2021 APCAC meeting notes.

IV. DPR Update – Joseph Damiano, Enforcement Headquarters Branch Chief

- The [2019 California Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program Report](#) is now available on the DPR web site.
- The [35th Annual Well Sampling Report](#) provides 2019 groundwater monitoring data. The report is now available on the DPR web site.
- The comment period closed on 6/2/21 for [proposed regulatory action to update notification procedures in citrus/bee protection areas](#).
- Jesse Cuevas (DPR Chief Deputy Director) and Abbott Dutton (DPR Assistant Director, Communications) have left DPR. Val Dolcini (DPR Director) will be leaving DPR at the end of June.

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

- Exam Update: Since July 2020, 3287 exams for QAC/QAL/DDA applicants have been taken at computer-based testing centers throughout California; 766 exams for APC/JPC and PCA applicants have been taken at our Northern Regional Office. The exam contract with DPR's vendor has been extended until June 2024. We have no backlog of exams.
- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS): The UAS program went live in July 2019. The current number of certified Apprentice UAS pest control pilots is 20, pending Journeyman UAS applicants is 2, certified Vector Control UAS pest control pilots is 17.
- 2020 Renewal Season:
 - Renewal challenges included an increase in the amount of emails and phone calls, increased mail delivery time (both incoming and outgoing), and the volume of renewals received at the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021.
 - To alleviate emails and phone calls during the 2021 renewal season, DPR will update the Licensing Program "What's New" area of the DPR web site each week (starting in October) with the payment transaction date we are currently processing. The auto-reply to LicenseMail will also include this information.
- 2021 Renewals: M-Z
 - Outreach efforts have begun, including staff presentations, emails, postcards, and posters.
 - Outreach emphasizes submittal target dates of October 1 (be able to register with county(ies) before December 31, 2021) and November 1 (to be renewed by December 31, 2021).

- Early renewal packets will be mailed in June, regular renewal packets in July, and business packets in September.
- Top renewal issues for individuals include renewal form missing, incorrect payment, renewal form not signed, and DPR unable to verify CE. Top renewal issues for businesses include proof of financial responsibility missing and the qualified person for the business is not yet renewed.

VI. Update on Incorporation of the Federal Certification and Training Regulations – Alicia Scott, DPR Licensing and Certification Program

- History:
 - On August 5, 2015, U.S. EPA proposed changes to 40 CFR 171 pertaining to the licensing and certification of persons using restricted use pesticides.
 - On January 4, 2017, U.S. EPA finalized their new Certification and Training of Pesticide Applicators rule.
 - Rule became effective March 6, 2017.
- Impact of U.S. EPA rule change on California:
 - U.S. EPA's new requirements only apply to those who apply federally restricted use pesticides.
 - However, due to California's regulatory system structure, some of those changes may also affect non-restricted use pesticide applicators.
 - The new requirements require regulatory changes for California.
 - U.S. EPA is reviewing each state's plan.
 - Once approved, each state will have 2 years to implement the revised plan.
- Commercial Applicators – Revised Knowledge Requirements
 - New category: non-soil fumigation for use of a restricted use pesticide to fumigate anything other than soil (e.g. commodity fumigation).
 - Expanded knowledge requirements for the Private Applicator certification:
 - Labels and labeling comprehension
 - Safety measures to avoid/minimize adverse health effects
 - Potential environmental consequences of pesticides
 - Proper identification and effective control of pests
 - Characteristics of pesticides
 - Application equipment
 - Application methods

- State and federal laws and regulations
- Responsibilities for supervisors of noncertified applicators
- Stewardship
- Applications relating to agricultural commodities
- Soil and non-soil fumigation
- New minimum age requirement is 18 years old for commercial applicators, private applicators, and non-certified applicators.
- DPR is still analyzing the new regulations to determine licensing options and impacts to California certified applicators.

VII. UC IPM Update – Lisa Blecker, UC IPM Program

- Staffing Updates:
 - The Western Center Director position is currently in recruitment. Interviews are completed.
 - UC IPM filled an Area Citrus IPM Advisor position. Dr. Sandipa Gautam will start on July 12, 2021.
 - A hiring freeze is in place at UC ANR so we will be selectively recruiting for positions.
- [UC Ag Experts Talk About...](#) (Webinars)
 - The upcoming webinar is “Biology and Management of Avocado Lace Bug in California” on July 7, 2021 at 3 pm, facilitated by Mark Hoddle.
 - Recordings of previous webinars are on the [UC IPM YouTube channel](#).
- [Online Training Courses](#) are all back online since early February. The courses are free for those who do not need continuing education (CE) credit. There’s a fee for those who need CE; “early bird” prices apply until October 31.
- The Citrus Research Board’s webinars related to pest management took place on June 1 and June 8. Upcoming webinars not specifically related to pest management will occur on June 15 and June 22.
- The final draft of the California Processing Tomato Pest Management Strategic Plan is currently under review by the Western IPM Center.
- Pest Management Guidelines (PMG) Updates:
 - The migration of PMGs to a new mobile friendly site continues. The general content of the PMGs does not change, but the migration will make updating them easier.
 - 25 PMGs are already in mobile friendly format (there are a total of 47 PMGs).
 - Upcoming PMG migrations include “Floriculture,” “Cherry,” “Cole Crops,” and “Peach.”
- The [Pesticide Safety webinar series](#) continues. One or two webinars a month provide

laws and regulation continuing education hours to license and certificate holders.

Upcoming webinars:

- June 8: Pesticide Compliance Cheat Sheet (English) The Pesticide Compliance Cheat Sheet is a response to the question “How do we comply with regulations that are not on the label?”
- June 22: Pesticide Compliance Cheat Sheet (Spanish)
- July 6: Rodenticide Active Ingredients and Modes of Action (English)
- Pesticide Safety webinars are recorded and can be seen on the [UC IPM YouTube channel](#).
- [Urban and Community IPM Webinar Series](#):
 - The webinars are at 1 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month. In September, the webinar time will change to 12 noon. It’s free to attend. No CE hours are available.
 - Upcoming seminars:
 - June 17: IPM for Rodents (Niamh Quinn)
 - July 15: Plant Diseases (Belinda Messenger-Sykes)
 - August 19: Weed Identification (John Roncoroni)
 - September 16: Identifying Insect Pests in the Home and Garden (Elaine Lander)
 - A new webinar series by Siavash Taravati has started. Target audiences are Structural Pest Control Board and DPR licensees who manage pests in urban settings.
 - DPR funded a project to educate structural pest management professionals about pyrethroid regulations: “Best Practices for Urban Pyrethroid and Fipronil Use by Pest Control Operators.” Webinars were held in March and May. The project will now focus on development of four online courses covering material from the webinars.

VIII. 2018 School Pesticide Use and Outreach Summary – Byron Tam, IPM Branch

- The Healthy Schools Act (HSA):
 - §13182: It is the policy of the state that effective least toxic pest management practices should be the preferred method of managing pests at school sites and that the state, in order to reduce children’s exposure to toxic pesticides, shall take the necessary steps, pursuant to this article, to facilitate the adoption of effective least toxic pest management practices at school sites.
 - The HSA (and by extension the DPR IPM Program) has two primary goals: to facilitate IPM in schools through outreach, education, and training and to make sure the public has access to information about school pesticide use through the notification, posting, and reporting requirements of HSA.

- DPR is the lead state agency providing HSA compliance support to California school sites. The IPM Branch provides pest management workshops, conferences, and hands-on training with staff at California schools.
- [2018 School and Child Care IPM Program Pesticide Use Report Summary](#) was recently published to the DPR web site.
 - Pesticide use reports were received from 7,103 schools and 1,521 childcare centers across California.
 - Pesticide use reports were received from 1,258 ZIP codes representing 57 counties. Counties not reporting are primarily small sites using no pesticides other than maybe disinfectants and sanitizers.
 - 92% of applications reported were made at primary and secondary schools.
 - 97,629 pesticide applications were reported at California school sites.
 - Approximately 95% of pesticide applications at California child cares are made by pest control businesses.
- Healthy Schools Act training activities:
 - Teachers, staff, and volunteers who use pesticides at schools must take an annual training. The trainings are available online, as group training kits, and at in-person workshops.
 - Trainings increased 166% from 2016 to 2018, which coincides with a 15% increase in the number of school districts reporting staff pesticide applications.
- The IPM Branch will continue focusing on using pesticide use data to have directed outreach with school sites and support their pest management goals.

IX. Overview of DPR's Surface Water Agricultural Monitoring Program – Anson Main, Environmental Monitoring Branch

- The Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP) is a program with DPR charged with protecting California's surface water environment from the adverse effects of pesticides.
- The California Food & Agriculture Code establishes protection authorities and mandates for stormwater protection (§ FAC 11501, 12824, 14102).
- While SWPP has many activities such as mitigation, outreach, and regulation, prevention is growing in importance. A strong and effective prevention component will make subsequent activities necessary less often.
- Although SWPP attempts to prevent registration of detrimental products, prevention is not perfect. Monitoring is the safety net.
- Surface water monitoring objectives are:
 - Determine the presence of pesticides in surface waters.
 - Evaluate spatial and temporal trends in detection frequencies and concentrations.

- Evaluate the potential risk of detected concentrations to aquatic organisms.
- SWPP monitoring site selection focuses on high agricultural production areas such as the central coast and central valley, areas with multiple seasons and crop rotations, areas with high levels of pesticide use, and areas with high potential for runoff via irrigation.
- SWPP's monitoring focuses on pesticides, not on specific commodities.
- Pesticide monitoring prioritization is based on pesticide use patterns and toxicological reference values.
- U.S EPA provides aquatic life benchmarks, which are estimates of the concentrations below which pesticides are not expected to represent concern for aquatic life. SWPP uses aquatic benchmarks as a screening tool for relative toxicity to determine if further monitoring or assessment is needed.
- Organophosphates and Carbamates – data from 2015-2019 shows:
 - Large downtrend of diazinon use and its detection in surface waters.
 - By comparison, malathion and methomyl continue to be detected frequently.
 - Malathion is more frequently detected in Santa Maria's regional surface waters.
 - Methomyl use and detection in surface water is greater in the Salinas region.
- Neonicotinoids – data from 2015-2019 shows:
 - Widespread imidacloprid detections in the central coast region.
 - U.S. EPA changes to aquatic benchmark (from 1.05 to 0.01 ppb) result in high percentage exceedances in Salinas and Santa Maria.
 - Frequent detections (>50%) of thiamethoxam and acetamiprid in both regions.
 - Extensive use, high water solubility, and persistence of neonicotinoids results in widespread detection.
- Pyrethroids – data from 2015-2019 shows:
 - The frequency of detections is consistent for bifenthrin and λ-cyhalothrin.
 - Far lower detection frequency of Pyrethroids is detected in the Sacramento Valley.
 - Despite the lowest application, bifenthrin has the highest detection frequency due to its high level of persistence and absorption to soil and sediment.
- SWPP monitors surface water to assess if pesticides are impacting the

environment. The collected data is used to evaluate regional, temporal, and long-term pesticide trends. SWPP partners with UC Davis to perform toxicity testing; frequent detections at elevated concentrations may initiate mitigation strategies, and/or outreach with stakeholders.

X. Next Agenda – Dates and Topics

Date of next meeting: September 8, 2021 (DPR will continue to meet with management regarding meeting in person vs. Zoom meeting)

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Possible topics include Federal Certification and Training Regulations update, CA water management, automated pesticide application equipment.

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