



Department
of Pesticide
Regulation
Strategic
Plan: 2021-23
Progress Report

Department of Pesticide Regulation 2018-23 Strategic Plan: 2021-23 Progress Report



California Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

December 2024

Background

Pest management plays an integral role in the stability of California's healthy food supply and protects the health of our urban and rural communities and our environment.

To fulfill its mission to protect people and the environment, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) evaluates all pesticides for risks and impacts to people or the environment before they can be registered for sales or use in California, continuously evaluates pesticides following registration to identify and mitigate risks, enforces pesticide use laws and regulations in partnership with County Agriculture Commissioners, and fosters safer, more sustainable pest management.

Throughout its work, DPR has advanced environmental justice, increased transparency and furthered its commitment to sustainable pest management for all Californians and the environment.



2018-23 STRATEGIC PLAN

State law requires California's state departments and agencies to develop measurable performance objectives and continuous improvement processes through strategic planning. DPR's strategic planning process supports the department's efforts to improve its efficiency, effectiveness and focus.

In 2018, the department released its 2018-23 Strategic Plan to guide DPR activities, including guiding principles and six strategic goals identified as critical to advancing the department's mission to "protect people and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use and fostering reduced-risk pest management."

- Protect people and the environment.
- Advance reduced-risk pest management systems
- Enforce and achieve pesticide use compliance
- Ensure environmental justice
- Continuously improve performance, accountability and organizational effectiveness
- Communication and outreach to promote understanding and awareness of DPR programs and increase multilingual training and resources.

2018-2020 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

To track progress related to these goals, DPR in 2020 released a [Progress Report](#) to highlight achievements between 2019 and 2020. An earlier report highlighted the department's work in [2018](#).



MISSION:

To protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.

VISION:

A California where pest management is fundamental to a healthy environment. Two beliefs underlie this vision statement:

- Pest management is essential to a modern society to protect public health, the food supply and enable effective resource management.
- The people of California are best served by a continuous effort to minimize risks associated with pest management.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO PROTECT PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Ending use of chlorpyrifos, initiating a work group to identify alternatives

DPR in 2019 reached an agreement with manufacturers that ended virtually all uses of the pesticide chlorpyrifos as of Dec. 31, 2020. DPR created a work group to identify, evaluate and recommend more sustainable alternatives to chlorpyrifos and held public workshops in Sacramento, Fresno and Oxnard to gather input on the work group's draft recommendations. The work group's report, issued in July 2020, identified alternatives to chlorpyrifos for California growers and called for continued work towards safer, more sustainable pest management practices. The group's work led to the convening of the Sustainable Pest Management Work Group, whose work produced a groundbreaking plan – the SPM Roadmap – released by DPR in 2023.

Continuously evaluating pesticides and adopting mitigation measures to reduce pesticide risks and impacts

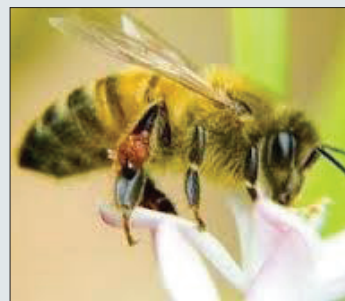


DPR developed mitigation measures to address human health or environmental impacts, including regulatory actions to protect bees from exposure to neonicotinoids; and creating new limits on crops and timing for applications.

The department also took [steps to reduce 1,3-D exposure](#) to residential bystanders by creating new structural setbacks and application requirements to prevent off-site movement of the pesticide.

DPR initiated action to address 11 active ingredients

- **First-generation anticoagulant rodenticide** diphacinone, which has been connected to likely harm to wildlife. This reevaluation is in progress.
- **Second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides.** DPR began formal reevaluation of a group of SGAR pesticides – brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum and difethialone – based on potential impacts to non-target wildlife. These reevaluations are in progress.
- **Neonicotinoids.** DPR completed a reevaluation of four neonicotinoids for agricultural uses: imidacloprid, thiamethoxam, clothianidin, and dinotefuran. This reevaluation informed regulatory action to restrict the use of neonics including when and how much of the product can be used to protect bees. DPR additionally began a reevaluation for non-agricultural uses of acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam.
- **Acephate.** Based on a risk characterization document, DPR implemented label amendments with the registrant to mitigate potential exposure to pesticide handlers, fieldworkers, and residents.



Groundwater and imidacloprid

DPR conducted a Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act Review Process of imidacloprid to evaluate the impact of the pesticide on groundwater and drinking water through a formal scientific consultative process, and determined that imidacloprid does not pollute and does not threaten to pollute the state's groundwaters.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO ADVANCE REDUCED-RISK PEST MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Sustainable Pest Management Work Group

Along with the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the California Environmental Protection Agency, DPR convened the multi-stakeholder Sustainable Pest Management Work Group to identify a path for reducing high-risk pesticide use and promoting safe, sustainable pest management solutions. DPR released the group's [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#) in January 2023.

Outreach

DPR conducted outreach and developed programs to increase awareness of, and technical support for, the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), including hosting 10 school IPM workshops and trainings, more than 210,000 Healthy Schools Act trainings and recognizing 15 leaders in IPM adoption through the annual IPM Achievement Awards.

Grants

DPR enhanced and expanded [grant funding available](#) for IPM research and adoption. Between 2021-2023, DPR funded 19 projects with a total of \$6,148,967. Over the past 20 years, DPR has awarded more than \$26 million for over 100 projects that advance the use of IPM. IPM is a pest management strategy that minimizes over-reliance on pesticides, focusing instead of monitoring, prevention, the use of alternatives like physical barriers, beneficial insects.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO ENFORCE AND ACHIEVE PESTICIDE USE COMPLIANCE



Pesticide applicator violations

DPR conducted investigations in partnership with County Agricultural Commissioners and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enforce pesticide use laws and regulations, with [notable enforcement actions on egregious offenses](#). These include licensing actions against a pair of aerial application business with histories of violations, and a major soil-fumigation business for violations related to 1,3-D applications.

Other enforcement actions

In the period covered by this report, DPR also:

- Increased potential fine levels for violators through initiating a change in statutory requirements.
- Secured state funding for safe pesticide disposal events in partnership with County Agricultural Commissioners, funding 21 events in counties across California.
- Conducted audits to ensure products sold in California were registered and that the state's mill fee was paid. The audits included a major settlement with a fine of \$4.97 million paid to DPR, including \$3.69 million in unpaid pesticide mill assessment fees and related late penalties, and \$1.28 million in civil penalties associated with retail sales of unregistered pesticides into California.
- Implemented strengthened federal regulatory certification and training requirements for licensed pesticide applicators.
- Developed new study guides and multilingual exams for pesticide applicator and licensing programs.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Celia Pazos

DPR established a new executive-level position and hired the first Deputy Director of Environmental Justice and Equity, Celia Pazos, to center environmental justice and equity across DPR's internal- and external-facing work.

DPR has continued to take steps to ensure equitability and environmental justice is centered in its work. For example, in recent years, DPR:

- Launched racial equity and diversity, equity and inclusion training for all staff at the department.
- Expanded farmworker and pesticide handler outreach in multiple languages and formats, including more than 12,000 Public Service Announcements (PSAs) launched across the state with a grant from U.S. EPA to expand awareness of pesticide safety. PSAs ran on radio stations in Ventura, Oxnard, Santa Maria, Lompoc, Stockton, Modesto, and Merced including 480 PSAs in Mixteco, Zapoteco, Triqui, and Purepecha, and 1,109 in Spanish in 2023.
- Expanded support to increase language access, including translation and interpretation at DPR events and for DPR materials and trainings, including expanding languages available for the Pesticide Safety Information Series, which is required for employers to provide information on pesticide safety to employees.
- Initiated the development of a statewide pesticide application notification system, kicking off work in 2021. Between 2021 and 2024, DPR held more than eight meetings to gather feedback, worked with the agricultural commissioners in Riverside, Santa Cruz, Stanislaus and Ventura counties on pilot projects, and then, with the Tulare Agricultural Commissioner, moved into beta testing on a model of the final system. In late 2023, DPR noticed a proposed notification regulation and conducted public hearings in late 2023 and, following proposed amendments, conducted additional public hearings in summer 2024. DPR anticipates launching the final system, called SprayDays California, in the first quarter of 2025.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

In the period covered by this report, DPR:

- Launched a County Agricultural Commissioner and Community Engagement Work Group to develop resources to enhance and support relationships and engagement between commissioners and community members, resulting in the launch of the Engagement Resource Hub on DPR's website.
- Launched a Language Access Hub, with funding provided by U.S. EPA to provide the public with increased language access services when working with or communicating to their County Agricultural Commissioner – providing resources and support for more than 100 languages.
- Expanded language access and multilingual outreach and materials development across the department, including translating the department's Pesticide Safety Information Series, and conducting a variety of pesticide safety information events and hundreds of outreach activities throughout California in multiple languages, and airing PSAs to expand awareness of pesticide safety, as listed under the "actions to ensure environmental justice."
- Developed and launched the active ingredient portal and database on DPR's website to improve public access to information on pesticide active ingredients.
- Streamlined email communication to and file sharing with stakeholders to improve information sharing and transparency. Deployed an online tool to submit public comments and provide timely, direct online public access to comments submitted during regulatory public comment periods.

2021-2023 PROGRESS AND MILESTONES

ACTIONS TO CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE PERFORMANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY AND ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

In the period covered by this report, DPR conducted ongoing development of a new electronic registration process (the California Pesticide Electronic Submission Tracking or CalPEST) to shift from a paper-based system to a modern, streamlined and improved pesticide product registration process, scheduled to launch in Fall 2024.

DPR also increased regular forums for stakeholder engagement by initiating roundtable meetings with the department's agricultural and environmental stakeholders, community stakeholders and registrants to expand accessibility and engagement with DPR executive team and identify opportunities for collaboration and improvement.

And, DPR adapted department operations to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to offer critical resources and services to the public and stakeholders.



2024-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN

The department released a final 2024-2028 Strategic Plan in October 2024 that builds on the work conducted over the last five years to continue to advance the department's mission. The plan includes annual benchmarks and timelines to increase accountability and measure the department's progress to meet the plan's goals. To view the plan and find more information on DPR's work, visit www.cdpr.ca.gov.

