



Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

April 24th, 2024

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Remote Zoom meeting

Members Present (4): Matthew Scally–Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners, **Wayne Steele**–Registrants, **Stephen Scheer**–California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, **Dan Gudgel**–Pest Control Aircraft Pilots.

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Staff (10): Joshua Ogawa–Branch Chief, **Ken Everett**–Assistant Director, **Stephen Hibel**–Staff Services Manager II, **Jessica Teague**–Senior Environmental Scientist, **Kenneth King**–Associate Governmental Program Analyst, **Kayla Surprenant**–Staff Services Manager I, **Scott Thomsen**–Senior Environmental Scientist, **Midori Bailey**–Environmental Scientist, **Elisa Chen**–Staff Services Analyst, **Donna Marciano**–Environmental Program Manager II.

Guests (2): Ruthann Anderson–California Association of Pest Control Advisers and **Terry Gage**–California Agricultural Aircraft Association.

Members Absent (8): John Erisey–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, **Phil Mullins**–Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, **Timothy Smith**–Board of Governors of the California Community College System, **Margaret Ellis, Ph.D.**–Board of Trustees of the California State University System, **Glen Foth**–Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders, **Jeanette Heinrichs**–General Public, **Ronald Berg**–Pesticide Dealers, and **Jhalendra Rijal**–The University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

I. Welcome – Jessica Teague, DPR Licensing and Certification

II. Opening Statements – Ken Everett, DPR Enforcement Headquarters

- Purpose of this meeting: To discuss the increase in licensing costs and fees.
- Fees must be adjusted to continue effectively funding program expenditures and increased costs.
- The future plans for the licensing program will be discussed.

- There will be a webinar on May 2nd that will further explain the draft fees increase proposal. There will be a 30-day comment period through May 24, 2024.
- Member introductions.

III. Administrative Topics – Joshua Ogawa, DPR Enforcement Headquarters

- History: Fees set by legislature; most were established in 1967; fees were raised by CA Food & Agriculture Code amendments in 1970s & 1980s. Fees have not been raised since 2004.
- Legislative mandate that licensing program is self-supported.
 - CA Food & Agriculture Code Section 11502.5 (b)-(g).
 - Directed the department to set licensing and certification fees to fully support the program.
 - Fees set to support total annual costs of the program. 2004 was the first and only time DPR adjusted fees to fully support the program.
- 4 General Sources of Revenue
 - Renewals (approx. 67%).
 - New Applications/Exams (approx. 29%).
 - CE Course Applications (approx. 2.5%).
 - Late Fees (approx. 1.5%).
- Decline in licensed applicators and businesses
 - 3% annual decline from 2017/2018 to 2022/2023.
 - 19% revenue drop.
 - While revenues dropped, costs went up.
 - More staff needed/hired, added to cost.
- Licensing enhancements, 2018/2019 to 2019/2020
 - State employee compensation cost increase.
 - Positions reclassification, recruitment, and retention.
- Licensing enhancements, 2020/2021 to 2021/2022

- Electronic examinations given via a 3rd party testing center.
- 26 locations throughout California with Monday through Saturday hours.
- Licensing enhancements, 2022/2023 to 2023/2024
 - Continue offering electronic exams.
 - C&T implementation (3 positions).
 - Funding for translating exams and study materials into non-English languages.
- In 2024/2025, General Fund Bridge ends for the new positions and electronic testing
 - Funding also needed for study guide revisions.
- 2025/2026
 - One time funding to support SPM training programs.
 - Addition of three (3) staff positions.
- Draft Fee Funding Proposal
 - Renewals, New applications, exam costs.
 - Ongoing program costs = 2.0 x current costs.
 - Ongoing costs + 2024/2025 BCP = additional 0.4 x.
 - Pesticide Broker license fee increased to \$20.
 - Continuing Education fees unchanged.
- Licensing Program Trajectory
 - Implement 3-year renewal cycles after the fee increase.
 - Moving towards implementing electronic payments and online application submittals.
 - Increase Spanish and non-English language exams and study guides.
 - Further develop CE tracking and reporting abilities for license holders.
- Fee Proposal – Next Steps
 - May 2nd: Public presentation of proposal.

- Pre-rulemaking comment period open until May 24th.
- Comments can be sent to LicenseFeeChange@cdpr.ca.gov or to DPR Licensing and Certification Program's physical address.
- Emergency Regulation package for fees to apply to renewed licenses issued in 2025 with a target August 2024 effective date.

IV. Next Meeting

Date of next meeting: June 12th, 2024

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Please direct questions to Alicia Scott at 916-603-7795 or via email at Alicia.Scott@cdpr.ca.gov.