

**Assistant Executive Officers of California’s Regional Water Quality Control Boards and
Managers of California’s Department of Pesticide Regulation**

CHARTER

7/12

Background

With the adoption of the Management Agency Agreement (MAA) in 1997, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the State Water Resources Control Board and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively referred to here as “Water Boards”) have collaborated on a range of pesticide and water quality issues. The MAA, its associated Pesticide Management Plan (the Plan), and the “Process for Responding to the Presence of Pesticides in Surface Water” have collectively guided communication between the agencies involved. Interagency staff coordination has been essential with the proliferation of Water Board activities on total maximum daily loads, basin planning, discharge permitting, and irrigated lands regulatory programs (ILRPs). Such coordination is also necessary to assist DPR on activities relating to the statewide protection of water quality from pesticide use (e.g., registration evaluations, dormant spray regulations, and surface water regulations of pyrethroid pesticides).

Although the MAA, Plan, and surface water response process have been effective at fostering staff interactions, communication at the management level has been minimal. To improve communication, in 2011, DPR and Water Board upper management began meeting periodically through the Water Boards’ Assistant Executive Officer (AOE) meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest. The aim of this charter is to define the nature of this interaction and to clarify the context of this partnership to existing interagency and stakeholder workgroups.

Mission/Purpose

- Maintain a forum for dialogue between DPR and Water Board management to facilitate interagency coordination, policy discussion, and informed decision-making on pesticides and water quality issues.

Objectives

- Keep management team partners informed of current agency activities and issues

- Provide insights to management team partners on key agency programs and functions
- Coordinate on upcoming projects and endeavors, and define roles and responsibilities when necessary
- Provide input on strategies to address water quality issues related to pesticides
- Consider and make policy and management decisions on pesticide and water quality issues forwarded by DPR and Water Board program supervisors and staff

Meetings

AOE meetings are a series of recurring meetings designed for Regional Board AEOs and State Board management representatives to coordinate on water quality issues at hand. They are currently managed by the State Board's Office of Research, Planning, and Performance. Meeting formats alternate between teleconference and face-to-face from month to month.

DPR management representatives will interact with Water Board management counterparts during these meetings when pesticide-related DPR items are on the agenda.

Participants

DPR

- Associate Director of Pesticide Programs Division
- Chief of Environmental Monitoring Branch

State Water Board

- Chief of Water Quality Division
- Chief of Groundwater Quality Branch
- Chief of Surface Water/Regulatory Branch

Regional Water Boards

- AEO North Coast (R1)
- AEO San Francisco Bay (R2)
- AEO Central Coast (R3)
- AEO Los Angeles (R4)
- AEO Central Valley (R5)
- AEO Lahontan (R6)
- AEO Colorado River (R7)
- AEO Santa Ana (R8)
- AEO San Diego (R9)

Relationship to Other DPR/Water Board Forums

There are many interagency and stakeholder forums in which DPR and Water Board program supervisors and staff regularly participate. Management interactions through the AEO meetings do not replace the functions of these groups. Instead, AEO meetings are intended to provide clarification on policy and to provide management decisions as needed. Some of these forums include, but are not limited to:

- ILRP Roundtable and its DPR Focus Group
- Urban Pesticide Committee
- Management Agency Agreement Roundtable
- Pesticide Registration Evaluation Committee
- Central Valley Long-Term ILRP Stakeholder Workgroup and its Groundwater Monitoring Advisory Workgroup
- Marina and Recreational Boating Interagency Coordinating Committee and its Antifouling Strategies Workgroup
- California Water Quality Monitoring Council
- Pelagic Organism Decline Contaminants Work Team
- Water Boards Roundtables

The need for policy clarification and management-level decision making may also arise during the course of episodic interactions (e.g., Water Board/DPR hearings, DPR reevaluation stakeholder meetings, MAA meetings) and less formal staff interactions outside of established forums.

Communication Pathways

When DPR or Water Board staff requires policy guidance and/or management decisions on issues related to pesticide and water quality, the staff person shall direct specific inquiries to his or her respective management representative. The management representative shall determine whether the inquiry can be addressed within the agency or whether it should be brought up as an agency item for joint deliberation at the AEO meetings. The staff person shall act as the liaison between the DPR/Water Board management team and an interagency or stakeholder group when necessary.