



Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
September 9, 2020
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Members Present (9): **Lisa Blecker**–University of California, **Margaret Ellis**–Board of Trustees of the California University System, **Glen Foth**–Commercial Applicators, **Dan Gudge**–Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, **Michael Huffman**–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers (Alternate), **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, **Kenneth King**–Staff Services Analyst, **Laura Pauli**–Staff Services Manager, **Rebecca Olson**–Staff Services Analyst, **Jessica Teague** – Environmental Scientist

Guests (13): **Ruthann Anderson**–California Association of Pest Control Advisers, **Izabella Czaja**–DPR Licensing & Certification, **Nathan Desjarlais**–DPR Enforcement, **Ken Everett**–DPR Assistant Director, **Terry Gage**–California Agricultural Aircraft Association, **Katrina Hunter**–University of California, **Emily Saad**

Members Absent (5): **Ronald Berg**–Pesticide Dealers, **John Erisey**–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, **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-PML

II. Familiarizing Attendees with Using Zoom - Kenneth King, DPR-PML

- Kenneth King gave the group some user instructions and guidelines for today's meeting, APCAC's first livecast (via Zoom software) quarterly meeting.

III. Administrative Topics - Laurie Brajkovich, DPR-PML

- Introductions
- Staffing Updates
 - Leslie Talpanasu, who previously worked in Licensing and Certification, was promoted to Environmental Program Manager in the Integrated Pest Management Branch.
 - Leticia Magana, Office Technician, has left DPR.

- Amber Rousseau, previously Office Assistant with Licensing and Certification, has been promoted to Office Technician.

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

- Joseph Damiano thanked the Licensing and Certification staff for their work implementing changes in the branch over the past few months.
- DPR branches have been restructured.
 - The Enforcement and Pest Management Branches were reorganized and now consist of the Enforcement Headquarters Branch (Joseph Damiano, Branch Chief), the Enforcement Regional Offices Branch (Donna Marciano, Branch Chief), and the Integrated Pest Management Branch (in the process of hiring a Branch Chief).
 - The Registration and Evaluation Branch was also reorganized and now consists of the Pesticide Registration Branch, the Pesticide Evaluation Branch (Jill Townzen, Branch Chief and formerly with Licensing), and the Human Health Assessment Branch.
 - All functions of Licensing and Certification have moved in their entirety to the new Enforcement Headquarters Branch.

V. Chlorpyrifos Workgroup Update – Karen Morrison, Assistant Director, Pesticide Programs Division

- DPR and the California Department of Food and Agriculture created the [Chlorpyrifos Alternatives Work Group](#) in the fall of 2019 in response to the cancellation of chlorpyrifos products. The group worked to help identify, evaluate, and recommend alternative pest management tools.
- The group met for six months and included representatives from California universities, environmental justice groups, UC Cooperative Extension and IPM scientists, pesticide registrants, farmworker health and safety organizations, agricultural commissioners, commodity organizations, pest control advisers, product manufacturers, and state agencies.
- The workgroup issued their report in July 2020, “Towards Safer and More Sustainable Alternatives to Chlorpyrifos: [An Action Plan for California](#).” The report detailed five recommendations:
 - Outreach to growers
 - Build institutional capacities
 - Regulatory improvements
 - Research priorities
 - Roadmap for future work

- In addition to the five recommendations, the report contains tables with the following resources:
 - Available alternative products
 - Toxicity of the available alternatives
 - Crops in which biopesticide active ingredients may be used in California
 - Crops with significant use of chlorpyrifos, but no UC pest management guidelines

VI. Carbaryl Restrictions – Ann Schaffner, Senior Environmental Scientist, Worker Health and Safety Branch

- Carbaryl is a widely used broad-spectrum insecticide with both agricultural and non-agricultural uses.
- DPR amended sections 6400(c) and (e) of Title 3, California Code of Regulations (CCR). Pesticide products containing carbaryl were designated as California restricted materials, with some exemptions. This action now makes all carbaryl products in California restricted materials, with the exception of baits labeled only for agricultural use. This amended regulation became effective on August 1, 2020 and the changes mean:
 - It is illegal for anyone except certified applicators to buy, possess, or use nearly all carbaryl products.
 - California retail stores can no longer sell carbaryl products and must remove these products from store shelves.
 - Registrants can only sell carbaryl products to other registrants, licensed brokers, or licensed pest control dealers.
 - Only licensed pest control dealers can sell carbaryl products to an end-user; the end-users must be certified applicators, or work under their direct supervision, with a permit issued by the county agricultural commissioner.
- For existing stocks of products containing carbaryl:
 - Retailers cannot sell existing stocks; distributors can recover the stock or it must be properly disposed of.
 - Homeowners can no longer use stocks containing carbaryl they possess and stocks must be properly disposed of.

VII. Licensing and Certification Program and Renewals Update – Laura Pauli, Staff Services Manager, Licensing and Certification

- New items for Licensing:

- In May 2020, the Licensing and Certification Program relocated from downtown Sacramento to the new Bradshaw Regional Office in Rancho Cordova.
- DPR's Licensing and Certification Program has contracted with a company to administer computer-based exams at testing centers throughout California for many DPR licenses and certificates.
- Many [online and correspondence-style continuing education \(CE\) courses](#) are available that can be taken during the day, evening, or weekends, and can be completed from home to satisfy CE requirements.
- Many in-person courses have converted or are currently being converted to webinar format. Additional classes are moving to this format or other online, smartphone, and tablet friendly formats.
- Information about DPR licenses from 2019:
 - Licenses renewed 10,338; new licenses issued 2,037 (compared to 2,362 in 2018); exams proctored 10,477 (compared to 6,892 in 2018).
 - Out of the 14,568 M-Z licenses eligible for renewal, 11,893 (81%) had renewed as of February 20, 2020.
 - Average processing time for renewals was three weeks.
 - A total of 2,340 new licenses were issued in 2019 (compared to 2,362 in 2018).
- Information about the 2020 A-L renewal season:
 - DPR mailed out 11,300 individual renewal packets in August. Business renewal packets will be mailed mid-September.
 - DPR recommends that license/certificate holders submit their packets by November 1 in order to be renewed by December 31, 2020. DPR recommends returning the packets by October 1 in order to be renewed in time to register with the county before December 31, 2020.

VIII. DPR Examinations Update – Jessica Teague, Environmental Scientist, Licensing and Certification

- As a result of the Governor's Executive Order to protect public health by limiting gatherings, DPR examinations were put on hold from March through early July. During that time, DPR developed a computer-based examination process and executed a contract with PSI to provide pest control exams at testing centers throughout California. Some examinations resumed on July 23. By September 15, all QAC/QAL/DDA exams will be available. Exams proctored at testing centers adhere to the Governor's Executive Order to protect Human Health.
- Benefits of computer-based examination services:

- DPR is able to provide examinations to current and prospective licensees at a greater volume while adhering to the Governor’s Executive Orders to protect public health.
- Several locations available for testing in Northern, Central, and Southern California.
- Examinees can search for available exam dates and locations once notified their application has been processed.
- Examinees receive immediate results upon completing their exam.
- Exams are created from a comprehensive question pool and no two exams are the same.
- Exam question format is consistent with that of in-person proctored exams.
- Exam sites provide the tools required to complete the exam (i.e. calculator, scratch paper, pencil).
- Exams are proctored by an attendant, as well as recorded by cameras.
- DPR is notified of any exam related concerns identified by an examinee or the testing center proctor. .
- All testing centers can be reached 24/7 by phone or online for automated exam scheduling resources.
- DPR staff at the DPR Bradshaw Regional Office proctor PCA and Pilot examinations. In person exams began on August 18, 2020; they are held every week. As of September 1, 113 PCA and Pilot exams were scheduled; 47 have been taken.
- DPR Examinations – Future Outlook:
 - DPR will continue to evaluate the availability of computer-based exams at testing centers and DPR in person proctored exams to ensure the needs of licensees are being met.
 - DPR will review feedback from licensees regarding their experience at the testing centers and their exams.
 - DPR is still evaluating options on how to move forward with Pilot and PCA exams being more widely available through computer-based exams at testing centers in California.

IX. Continuing Education (CE) Program Update – Kayla Surprenant, Associate Governmental Program Analyst, Licensing and Certification Program

- DPR has always had many online and correspondence-style courses approved for CE and is working closely with CE sponsors with the transitioning of in-person courses to online webinars and live-cast courses. From April to August 180 CE courses converted to online webinars and live-cast format.

- DPR gave guidance to CE course sponsors for alternative course formats, including establishing a means of identifying the attendee and including quizzes during the course, and a final exam to ensure participation.
- Due to the ability to receive CE hours without attending in person courses and the many options for courses available currently, DPR is not considering an extension for renewals at this time.
- DPR staff are developing a correspondence-style (text-based) course focused on pesticide laws and regulations, available in October. It will be approved for 2020 CE only. The course will also be available by mail (paper-based booklet).
You can find more information about our [CE program](#) on our website.

X. Next Agenda - Dates and Topics

Date of next meeting: December 9, 2020 (It is likely that the December APCAC meeting will also be online.)

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Possible topics may include:

- Status of renewals

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