



From the Director

Brian R. Leahy, Director
Department of Pesticide Regulation

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Hello,

It has been an extremely busy time at DPR and I would like to give you a brief update about some of the issues the department is working on.



Schools: As you may know, DPR has proposed a regulation that would require California growers to notify public K-12 schools, child day care facilities, and county agricultural commissioners when certain agricultural pesticide applications are planned nearby. Information about the pesticides that may be applied near schools and child day care facilities must be provided annually and, in some instances, another notification must be provided 48 hours prior to the application taking place. In addition, certain pesticide applications near these sites will be prohibited at certain times. While many counties in California currently have varying requirements for notification of certain pesticide applications near schools, the proposed regulation would be the first statewide standard. Our proposed regulation was developed based on input collected from stakeholders at public workshops including school administrators, growers and applicators, parents, teachers and the community. DPR believes this proposed regulation will help the schools and child care facilities with emergency preparedness and also provide an extra margin of safety by reducing the short-term exposure to pesticides.

You can review the proposed regulations at:

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/pesticide_applications_near_schoolsites.htm

Written comments can be submitted until 5 p.m. Dec. 9, 2016 to dpr16004@cdpr.ca.gov.

For information on upcoming hearings and other aspects about the proposed regulation, please visit: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-004/16-004.htm>



Air monitoring: As you may know DPR is in the process of updating its current air monitoring network. The year-round monitoring started in 2011 and is carried out in three communities where we look for 32 pesticides. At DPR's request, the Air Resources Board (ARB) has also been conducting year-round monitoring for selected fumigant pesticides in three additional communities. This monitoring provides unprecedented data on long-term exposure to pesticides. California is the only state that monitors air as part of its

continuous reevaluation of pesticides to ensure the protection of workers, public health and the environment.

Results to date indicate low exposure for most pesticides, but we believe there is a need to continue the monitoring. For the last several months, DPR has been reassessing the monitoring plan, including the monitoring locations. I am pleased to announce that the state budget for fiscal year 2016-2017 includes funding for the next two years to expand the air monitoring network to eight locations, and monitoring for all 32 pesticides at each location. We are currently working to select and prepare the new sites and monitoring should begin in January 2017.



1, 3-D: DPR continuously monitors and evaluates the use of pesticides to determine if we need to impose new measures unique to California to protect public health or the environment. After completing a new scientific assessment of the fumigant pesticide 1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D) we have announced a change in the way it will be managed in California. The new program, which will go into effect in January 2017, reflects conclusions drawn from the new scientific risk assessment and includes a ban on the use of this pesticide during December and discontinues the current practice of carrying forward (or “rolling over”) unused allocations of 1,3-D from one year for use in future years. I believe our new plan is health protective, provides certainty to growers as to how much they can use annually, and will be simpler to administer.



Antimicrobial use and workplace safety: DPR data shows that a significant number of pesticide injuries and illnesses that occur in work settings are due to antimicrobials. This is a growing area of concern for DPR so our scientists and staff have focused on outreach efforts to help reduce injury and illnesses associated with antimicrobial use in the workplace. DPR has [created a fact sheet](#) about antimicrobial use in the workplace and is developing more outreach materials to make those who work in retail food facilities aware of how to handle pesticides safely. The department also plans to work with residential care homes on the safe use of such products.



Sulfur dioxide: DPR has also updated its factsheet about sulfur dioxide use in California wineries. The pesticide is used to sanitize to sanitize corks, barrels and equipment. You can find that and other [useful factsheets](#) at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/factmenu.htm>.



Worker protections: DPR has recently updated its Worker Protection Regulations as a result of the changes made to the federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) by the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency. (<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2015-11-02/pdf/2015-25970.pdf>). As you know, agricultural workers and their families are important stakeholders and I am proud that California is known for having the toughest and most comprehensive protections in the country. The changes, which go into effect in January 2017, include display of additional pesticide safety, hazard and application information; and additional protections for people in the vicinity of agricultural pesticide applications. You can see DPR's revised Worker Protection Regulations here: <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/rulepkgs/16-001/16-001.htm>



Outreach: Pesticide Safety Trainings: As part of our commitment to pesticide safety, DPR has contracted with UC Davis, IPM Program (co-teaching with AgSafe) to conduct 24 “Train-the-Trainer” trainings throughout the state. The goal is to certify new and existing trainers who, in turn, train fieldworkers and pesticide handlers on a number of issues involving worker safety. For a list of training dates/locations, please visit: <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=18637>.

This work is in addition to our participation in Promotores de Salud — a statewide collaboration with the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and other agencies, designed to teach farmworkers and their families how to be safe from pesticides when working in the field with a special focus on the safety provisions for farmworkers under our updated Worker Protection regulations.



Pesticide Residue on Medical Cannabis: California has passed the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act (MCRSA) which includes direction for DPR to develop guidelines to provide guidance on pesticide residue levels in harvested cannabis to the newly created [Bureau of Medical Cannabis Regulation \(BMCR\)](#). As a result, DPR expects to hire 2 or 3 toxicologists to review and analyze pesticide data in order to help determine what pesticide residue levels in medical cannabis products are safe. BMCR is expected to adopt regulations that will include pesticide residue levels by January 2018.