

**Summary of the Notes taken by Lisa Ross and Mark Rentz
Regarding the
PEST MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PMAC) Meeting
November 15, 2007**

1. Attendance

PMAC Members

Robert Baker	Bob Blakely
David Bakke	Mark Cady
Stacy Carlson	Cynthia Cory
Nasser Dean	Robert Ehn
Janine Hasey (for Maxwell Norton)	Brian Hill (replacing Susan Kegley)
Karen Heisler	Anne Katten
Rick Melnicoe	Laurie Nelson
Cliff Ohmart	Pete Price
Mark Rentz (for Mary-Ann Warmerdam)	Renee Rianda
Jennifer Ryder Fox	Mark Shelton
Rebecca Sisco	Dave Tamayo
William Thomas	Rick Tomlinson

Interested Parties

Bill Gaither	Artrie Lawyer
Darren Van Steenwyk	Jim Wells

2. Introductions and Opening Comments

- ◆ DPR Deputy Director Mark Rentz facilitated meeting in Director Warmerdam's absence.
- ◆ Three critical agenda items to take action on:
 1. PMAC recommendations to the Director as to which Alliance Grant Program proposals should be funded in 2008.
 2. Feedback to DPR management on its proposed Strategic Plan revisions.
 3. Feedback to DPR staff on concept for a small grants program.

3. Alliance Grant Program Recommendations

- ◆ Karen Heisler, PMAC Alliance Grant Program Subcommittee chair, briefed the full PMAC on the subcommittee's findings and recommendations.
- ◆ Subcommittee reviewed ten proposals that met in initial screening requirements. There were an equal number of agricultural and nonagricultural (urban) proposals. A summary of the proposals reviewed by the subcommittee is attached to the end of these notes.
- ◆ Given limited available funding (\$585,000 in 2008), the subcommittee recommended funding for three projects:
 - Urban Pest Ant Management: Requested funding: \$183,488. Principal Investigator: Mike Rust. Focus of the Proposal--Reduce the use of synthetic insecticides used in urban environments to control ants. Project will provide training to pest management professionals in Orange and San Diego Counties on integrated pest management (IPM) approaches to insecticides. Subcommittee Recommendation: full funding.

- Almond Pest Management Alliance II: Requested funding: \$299,080. Principal Investigator: Marcia Gibbs. Focus of the Proposal--Continue to promote the Seasonal Guide to Environmentally Responsible Pest Management Practices, developed under the first DPR Almond Pest Management Alliance Grant. Provide additional training to pest control advisers on reduced-risk pest management practices, and encourage chemical companies to increase the availability and number of reduced-risk products. Subcommittee Recommendation: DPR fund for an amount less than requested in coordination with funding for the third project, discussed below. DPR staff will negotiate with project submitter.
- California Grape Alliance: Requested funding: \$229,640. Principal Investigator: Joe Browde. Focus of the Proposal--The project proposes to apply the existing Sustainable Winegrowing Program's voluntary continuous improvement program to both table and raisin grapes. The program provides training and education to growers on reduced-risk pest management practices, a self-evaluation process and a reporting mechanism to measure increased use of such practices. Subcommittee Recommendation: DPR fund for an amount less than requested in coordination with funding for the second project, discussed above. DPR staff will negotiate with project submitter.
- ◆ **ACTION of the FULL PMAC: PMAC unanimously approved the recommendations of its subcommittee for all three proposals (Urban Pest Ant Management, Almond Pest Management Alliance II, California Grape Alliance).**
- ◆ Additional Opportunities Identified by the PMAC
 - ◆ Possible workshops improve potential submitters understanding of what constitutes an alliance, and DPR's evaluation criteria.
 - ◆ DPR provide feedback to those projects not receiving an award.
 - ◆ For partial funding recommendations, subcommittee should be more specific as to how much it recommends and what it envisions to be accomplished with the partial funding.
 - ◆ Subcommittee should reconvene in early 2008 and critique its process and identify possible improvements, including its scoring process.
 - ◆ In its report out to the full PMAC, the subcommittee should also discuss what projects it did not recommend and why.
 - ◆ Some proposals involved third party certification. PMAC may need to discuss this issue and provide some suggested direction to DPR for evaluating future projects.

4. DPR Draft Strategic Plan

- ◆ Overview by M. Rentz
 - DPR began an internal review of its 2001 Strategic Plan in December 2006.
 - Upon completion of the draft revised plan, DPR sought input from the California county agricultural commissioners. Many of their recommendations are contained in the current draft.
 - DPR is seeking input from members of PMAC and the Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee (PREC), as well as interested members of the public.
 - DPR will consider PMAC, PREC, and general public input as part of its final strategic plan.
 - DPR will accept comments submitted electronically until December 15, 2007.

- ◆ PMAC/Public Input
 - Larry Bienati, private consultant, facilitated the PMAC dialogue.
 - Dr. Bienati systematically reviewed the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, and each of the strategic goals and objectives laid out in the draft strategic plan.
 - Many members requested that DPR provide more precise qualifiers in the strategic plan. For example, how do you quantify an “unacceptable risk”?
 - DPR responded that there needed to be some degree of discretion/flexibility to take into account the variety of issues and situations it addresses.
 - DPR may consider more definitive language, but must maintain flexibility.
 - Concern was expressed that there are no tactical steps which explain how the goals and objectives will be accomplished and for measuring success.
 - DPR explained that implementation tactics and metrics would be negotiated with individual branch chiefs during the development of the branch’s annual operating plan.
 - It was requested, and DPR agreed to consider sharing approved operating plans with PMAC.
 - Suggested that DPR provide a glossary of terms and definitions as an appendix to the strategic plan.
 - Concern that there was no recognition of economic considerations.
 - Strategic plan needs to recognize transparency for policy decisions, implementation, and enforcement.
 - Need to clearly articulate the interrelationship between compliance and enforcement.
 - Need to recognize a feedback loop to assess whether strategic plan goals and objectives are being met, and to what degree.
 - DPR responded that this is something that could be considered during the branch operating plan review and approval process.

5. Urban Pest Management Working Group (UPMWG)

- ◆ Deputy Director Rentz provided a status report on the efforts of the UPMWG.
- ◆ UPMWG will submit its written report to PMAC in early February 2008 and provide a briefing at the PMAC’s Winter 2008 Quarterly Meeting (February 14, 2008).

6. DPR Air Plan and Fumigant Regulations

- ◆ Assistant Director Campbell provided PMAC with an update on DPR’s proposed regulations to address reductions in volatile organic compound regulations.
- ◆ A court order requires DPR to have regulations in place by January 1, 2008, to ensure compliance with the 2004 State Implementation Plan for air quality.
- ◆ Public comment period closed on October 17, 2007.
- ◆ Proposed regulations could affect fumigant use in five areas:
 - Licensing
 - Method of application
 - Records and reporting
 - Limits on fumigant use
 - Emissions reporting

7. DPR Concept for Small Grants Program

- ◆ Pest Management and Licensing Branch Chief Dave Duncan brought forward a draft concept for a small grants program in addition to the DPR Alliance Grant Program.
- ◆ Concept is in response to concerns raised by PMAC members and interested public that current Alliance Grant Program precludes small grant proposals.
- ◆ While there currently is no funding for a small grants program, DPR wants to have a process in place if the opportunity arises to fund such projects.
- ◆ Proposal:
 - ◆ Intent is to provide a simplified process for smaller grant proponents.
 - ◆ Still competitive process with scoring criteria.
 - ◆ Still focus on pesticide use and associated challenges in terms of human health and/or environmental protection.
 - ◆ Could be either agricultural or nonagricultural (urban) related projects.
 - ◆ Process would include a PMAC subcommittee to review and recommend to the full PMAC proposals for small grant funding.
- ◆ Branch Chief Duncan will further discuss the draft concept with the Alliance Grant Program Subcommittee Chair and report back to the full PMAC at its Winter 2008 quarterly meeting.