# Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act

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# PCPA- Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act

Detections of fumigant DBCP in ground water in the early 1980's resulted in the passage of the PCPA in 1985.

The law basically unchanged until 2014 passage of SB 1117.

# DPR Responsibilities under PCPA

- Obtain environmental fate and chemistry data for agricultural pesticides before they can be registered for use in California.
- Identify pesticides with the potential to pollute ground water (6800b list).
- Sample wells for presence of pesticides.
- Obtain, report and analyze the results of well sampling conducted by public agencies (database and WIR).
- Formally review a detected pesticide to determine if its continued use can be allowed.
- Adopt use modifications to protect ground water from pollution if the formal review indicates that continued use can be allowed (6800A list- Restricted Material).

# Changes

## Identify pesticides with the potential to pollute ground water (6800b list).

…shall develop a peer reviewed method to determine the potential of a pesticide to pollute groundwater using specific numerical values established pursuant to...

# Changes (con't)

Formally review a detected pesticide to determine if its continued use can be allowed.

...an active ingredient, other specified ingredient, or degradation product of a pesticide has been found in the groundwaters of the state...

There are currently 3 degradation products that have been detected in groundwater in CA but whose parent AI have not.

# Review Process

Approx. 1 year process that begins with notification of registrant and ends with Director's decision.

Registrants present defense at public hearing of PREC subcommittee- DPR, State Board, OEHHA.

Subcommittee reviews data and makes recommendation to Director.

# Subcommittee's Recommendation

- That the ingredient found in the soil or groundwater has not polluted, and does not threaten to pollute, the groundwater of the state.
- That the agricultural use of the pesticide can be modified so that there is a high probability that the pesticide would not pollute the groundwater of the state.
- That regulation or cancellation of the pesticide will cause severe economic hardship.... shall recommend a level of the pesticide that does not significantly diminish the margin of safety recognized by the subcommittee to not cause adverse health effects.

# Director’s Decision

- Concurs with the subcommittee and adopts modifications that result in a high probability that the pesticide would not pollute the groundwaters of the state.
- Concurs with the subcommittee that regulation is not needed or will cause severe economic hardship on the state's agricultural industry. The Director shall adopt the subcommittee's recommended level or shall establish a different level...
- Determines that, contrary to the finding of the subcommittee, no pollution or threat to pollution exists.

# Example Decisions

- 6800 (a) List- 7 of 9 AIs reviewed- Use can be modified to prevent pollution.
- Hexazinone- Based on the detected concentrations of hexazinone (0.05 to 0.27 µg/L) and the health-protective level of 170 µg/L established by OEHHA, hexazinone cannot be found to have polluted ground water.
- Bentazon- Restricted use, prohibited on rice and in some counties, established irrigation requirements.

# Alachlor (AESA)

- Dry beans and corn- Use has dropped substantially over years to 10,000 pounds/year
- 16 wells with confirmed detections (0.05 - 1.04 ppb)
- EPA MCL 2ppb, OEHHA PHG 4ppb

# Dacthal (TPA)

- Approx. 200,000 lbs/yr
- Monterey, Imperial on cole crops and onions
- Approx. 200 detections (.05- 30 ppb)
- EPA HRL 70ppb.
- DPR sampling this summer/fall

# Metolachlor (MESA)

- Tomatoes, corn, beans.  Approx 300,000 lbs/yr
- Confirmed in 33 wells (0.05 to 3 ppb)
- EPA HAL 700ppb, DWEL 3,500 ppb

# Groundwater Protection Program

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/grndwtr/index.htm