Determining If Ground Water Contamination Is Occurring from Increased Use of Bentazon

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Introduction

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) monitors the state's ground water for potential impacts from legal agricultural use of pesticides.

In the late 1980's bentazon was detected in the ground water in ten rice-growing counties. These detections lead to a statewide ban of bentazon. In 1992 bentazon was reinstated for limited use in non-rice production areas.

Since 2007, the use of bentazon has increased in California. This has lead DPR to launch a statewide study to determine if current bentazon applications are resulting in ground water contamination.

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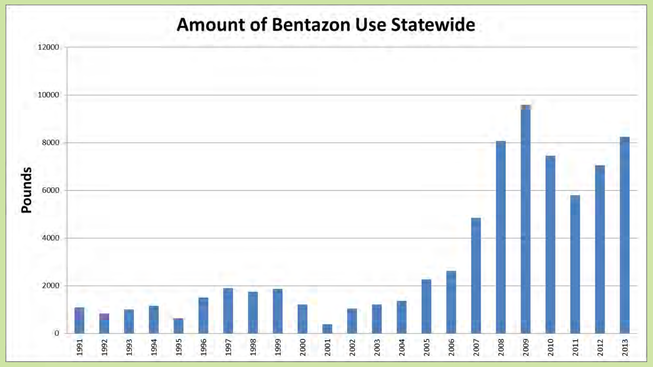
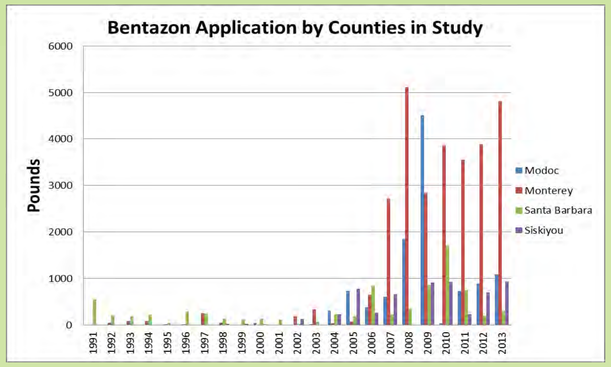
Study Objective

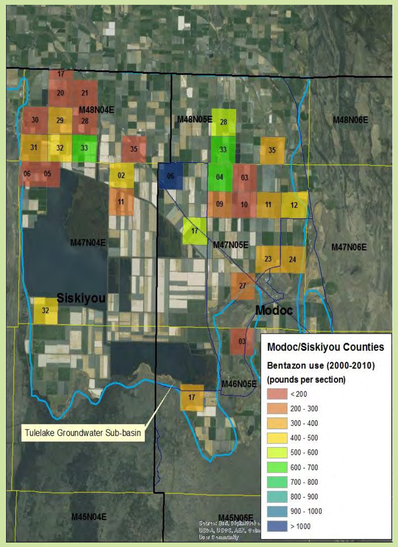
Monitor for bentazon in high-use areas to determine if it has migrated to ground water as a result of current legal agricultural use.

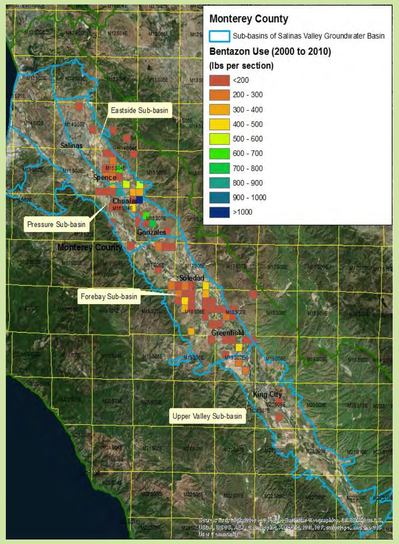
Bentazon

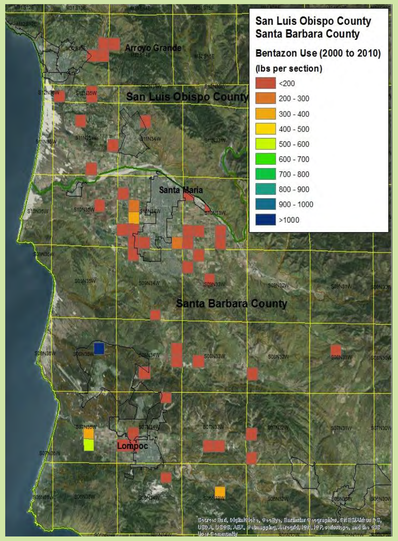
- Selective post-emergent herbicide
- Used to control broadleaf weeds
- Known ground water contaminant











Study Plan

Approximately 74% of bentazon applications in California occur in Modoc, Siskiyou, Monterey, and Santa Barbara counties. The highest application occurring on peas, beans, and mint.

In these counties, DPR will be concentrating sampling efforts in or around high-use sections. Domestic wells will be prioritized for sample collection because they are usually shallower than municipal and irrigation wells.

The study will begin in late 2015 and continue into 2016. Upon completion of sample collection and analysis, a full report of results will be published on the DPR website.

Additional Pesticide Analysis

Multi-Residue Analysis

ACET, Atrazine, Bromacil, DACT, DEA, Diuron, DSMN, Hexazinone, Norflurazon, Prometon, Propazine, Simazine, Tebuthiuron

Triazine Analysis

Atrazine, Azinphos-Methyl, Azoxystrobin, Bensulide, Bromacil, Carbaryl, Carbofuran, Diazinon, Dimethenamide, Dimethoate, Diuron, Ethofumesate, Fenamiphos, Fludioxonil, Linuron, Mefenoxam/Metalaxyl, Methiocarb, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Napropamide, Norflurazon, Oryzalin, Prometon, Simazine, Tebuthiuron, Thiamethoxam, Thiobencarb, Uniconizole

References:

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