



Department of Pesticide Regulation's

# AGRICULTURAL PEST CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting: **Wednesday, April 11, 2007**  
9:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Location: 1001 I Street  
Training Rooms East/West, 1st floor  
Sacramento, California 95812

**Members Present:** (5), *Tim Butler – Registrants, Barbara Todd- Department of Food and Agriculture (Ex-Officio), Ronald Berg- Pest Control Dealers, Richard Stoltz- Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, and Scott Hudson- County Agricultural Commissioner Association.*

**Department Staff:** (8) *David Duncan- Chair of Committee (Ch), Mac Takeda, Pat Matteson, Pam Wofford, Lisa Ross, Linda O'Connell, Yumie Park, and Rayven Jenkins*

**Guests:** (8) *Judy Letterman- PAPA, Tim Stone – PAPA, Susan Cohen- University of California, Joyce Basan-CAPCA, Terry Stark- CAPCA, Dave Lawson-Lawson & Associates, Nasser Dean-WPHA, Phil Mullins, and Matt Scain-PAPA*

**Members Absent:** (7)– *Linda LaVanne- Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, Mary Louise Flint-UCIPM, Elaine Hale-Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders, Ken Nichols– Pest Control Businesses, Jim Farrar-California State University System, Jean La Duc- General Public, and David De Silva – Board of Governors of the Community Colleges,*

**Member Vacancies:** (2)- *Vacant – Producers FAC section 56115, Vacant- and Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business.*

## AGENDA

**9:30-9:35** Introduction of members and others in attendance and review of agenda  
David Duncan, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

**9:35-9:40** Review and approval of January 10, 2007 meeting minutes  
Committee  
The committee approved the minutes as written.

**9:40-9:45** DPR Licensing website changes  
Mac Takeda, David Duncan, Enforcement staff, DPR  
The committee agreed to discuss the DPR web changes later in the meeting. The PCA MQs Regulation notice will be discussed now instead.

### **Pest Control Adviser minimum qualification revisions - Notice**

David Duncan and Committee

The Regulation has been noticed. The Text of the regulation is in the meeting packet. Once the comment period is closed on April 30<sup>th</sup> we want to bring all of the new comment presentations back for discussion. This proposal was three years in the making, and spent 2006 in a regulation queue. If you have any questions, call Dave, Mac, or any of committee members. Once regulations have been noticed there is a 45 day comment period unless revisions have to be made to the text of the regulations. The extent of the revisions, may result in an additional 15 days or 45 days comment period. Once the comment period has ended and DPR completes the Final Statement of Reasons the completed package will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law for review. OAL requires 30 days for review and the Secretary of State another 30 days for recording.

**9:45-10:40**            **Pest management projects in Parlier Environmental Justice Pilot Project**  
Pam Wofford, Pat Matteson, Pest Management and Licensing Branch, DPR

Pam Wofford and Pat Matteson gave a PowerPoint presentation about the Cal/EPA Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan and the DPR EJ Pilot Project.

Pat explained the Pest Management Assessment that is associated with the EJ Pilot Project. DPR's Pest Management Analysis and Planning program is studying Parlier area pest management practices and effective and economic lower-risk alternatives that are being demonstrated by local growers. The analysis will lay the foundation for strengthening DPR's proactive technical and financial assistance to Parlier area pest managers, in order to protect public health and the environment. Gaps in knowledge, research, and outreach, as well as other ideas for follow-up initiatives by DPR and other stakeholders, will be highlighted in the assessment.

The study will focus on organophosphate insecticides and soil fumigants used in grape and stone fruit production. It draws on work already ongoing in the Parlier area, such as DPR's EPA-funded peach/nectarine IPM program and UC Kearney research and extension.

DPR has already strengthened its support to Parlier growers. The stone fruit IPM project has been extended for two years. In addition, DPR has acted upon opportunities identified during information gathering for the pest management assessment:

1. Last May, DPR awarded a two-year grant to UCCE researchers to fund the evaluation of novel insecticides for use in an IPM system to control vine mealybug in grapes.

2. Collaboration with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) resulted in San Joaquin Valley growers being offered a \$30/acre copayment for using improved pesticide application equipment that increases efficiency and reduces drift. For 2007, the first year of the program, 12 stone fruit and row crop growers are receiving copayments covering about 3,340 acres.

Dave Lawson: Will USDA-NRCS continue to supply funds and technology?

Pat: I'm confident that the program will continue through next year but I haven't heard anything more than that.

Pat also announced that it was time to nominate candidates for the 2007 IPM Innovator Awards. Nominations were being accepted until April 30, 2007. Nomination contact: Bob Elliott, [bellott@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:bellott@cdpr.ca.gov)

**10:40-10:55**            **(BREAK TBA)**

**10:55-11:00**            **Mitigation of MITC (metam sodium)**  
Worker Safety Branch, DPR, Linda O'Connell

Linda O'Connell: The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is proposing added controls to reduce risks from exposure to methyl isothiocyanate (MITC). These acute exposures might occur near applications with pesticides that emit MITC. DPR will impose new restrictions on the two fumigants to prevent drift incidents and injuries in farm fields and neighborhoods.

DPR's goal is to put additional controls on metam-sodium and metam-potassium. Both pre-plant fumigants break down into a volatile gas that may cause eye and respiratory irritation. Several major drift incidents related to these chemicals have occurred in recent years.

DPR will hold public workshops on May 30 at the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, and accept written comments through June 30. The new restrictions will initially take the form of recommended permit conditions for County Agricultural Commissioners. That will allow implementation this year. Next year, DPR will put restrictions into formal, statewide regulations that are subject to public hearings.

More than 14 million pounds of metam-sodium was applied in California in 2004 and about 13 million pounds in 2005. Metam-potassium use totaled about 851,000 pounds in 2004 and 1.9 million pounds in 2005. The fumigants are used to treat weeds and other pests in vegetable fields before crops are planted.

New controls under consideration include:

- Extended buffer zones up to one-half mile, depending on application method, rate of application, acreage treated, and other factors.
- Special pre-application notification for sensitive sites (schools, homes, hospitals, farm worker housing) within 300 feet of the edge of a buffer zone; more restrictive controls on applications within one-quarter mile of sensitive sites.
- English and Spanish warning signs to warn workers in adjacent farm fields, if buffer zones extend into those fields.

Tighter controls on metam-sodium and metam-potassium began with interim DPR permit conditions after drift incidents in the late 1990s. County Agricultural Commissioners also invoked their own permit conditions in recent years.

In 2004, DPR completed a risk assessment for MITC (methyl isothiocyanate), a breakdown chemical of metam-sodium and metam potassium. MITC may cause eye and respiratory irritation with brief exposure at relatively low levels.

DPR's risk assessment led the Department to support new measures to reduce the risk of acute exposures and illness. DPR decided to focus on soil injection and irrigation sprinkler uses, since they are the primary agricultural application methods. Other uses will be examined later.

Comments:

Richard Stoltz: This would virtually eliminate our summer applications.

Linda O'Connell: These are the kind of comments we need. Please make your comments as soon as you see it on the website.

Dave Lawson: I have worked on this for 2 years and this is still misleading and I feel that our hard work is being circumvented.

Barbara Todd: It is kind of you to give every one a view of this fact sheet before it is seen.

**11:00-11:15**

**IPM Alliance Grants for 2007/08**

Lisa Ross, Pest Management and Licensing Branch

Background

From 1996 to 2002, DPR awarded grants for agricultural and urban projects focused on reduced-risk pest management.

Four grant options were available:

- Applied research
- Demonstration

- Evaluation
- Alliance

The Alliance grant program was designed to promote implementation of reduced risk pest management strategies regionally & statewide.

The Alliance grant program was designed to Demonstrate effective field strategies, promote outreach, assist with implementation, develop lasting partnerships, report findings, and promote expanded use of successful reduced-risk practices.

Program funding ended in 2002, however we may have a new opportunity to promote reduced-risk pest management.

#### Future Alliance Program

The Governor's budget currently contains funds for a limited Alliance Grant Program. The limited funding period for the Agricultural and urban Alliance projects is July 2007- June 2009, \$580,000 per year, with up to five projects annually.

Alliance Program Elements include:

Partnerships, Reduced risk pest management strategies, Outreach, Broad-scale implementation, and Address DPR priority areas such as VOC emissions reductions, Surface & ground water quality protection, IPM in public schools, reduced-risk pest management in urban areas, and worker exposure.

Details of the grant application process are under consideration. Proposals to include a work plan, quantifiable goals, partnerships (alliances), performance measures. Funds awarded in first year and continued for second year based on project progress.

There will be a May PMAC meeting to review grant application process details.

#### **11:25-11:30 DPR Licensing website changes**

Mac Takeda, David Duncan, Enforcement staff, DPR

Renewals: 86.32% of the Individual Licenses are renewed at this time and 82.12% of the Business Licenses are renewed at this time.

Website Changes: Four documents have been modified and/or changed and will be added to the DPR website.

1. The DPR Licensing and Certification Fees form has been simplified for clarity.
2. Pest Control Business Licensee Application: The scope of license, 'Do you need a license', has been modified. There are expanded financial responsibility options, and Insurance forms as well as a sample Insurance document.
3. Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business License Application: The scope of license, 'Do you need a license', has been modified. There are expanded financial responsibility options, and Insurance forms as well as a sample Insurance document.
4. The Pesticide Broker License Application has been reformatted.

#### **11:25-11:30 Study guides and exam update**

Susan Cohen, UC Davis IPM

Susan Cohen handed out the newly updated UC IPM catalog which on page 32 lists the PCA, QAL, and QAC study guides used for DPR's examinations. The publications are also listed on the UC website. If you want to order a publication on their website, the fastest way to do so is to type in the publication number.

Susan also showed everyone the newly revised English and Spanish Pesticide Study Guides for Private Applicators, and she asked everyone who had the old study guides to toss them away.

Susan is currently working on the newest compendium for the Maintenance Gardener category and examination. It will be highly illustrated with every single knowledge expectation having an illustration. The

manual will also have wide margins for notes. Susan said that the process in developing the compendium is slow going, but that she hopes to have the second review on March 1, 2008. She just finished the regulatory chapter on March 26, 2007. To 'finish' the regulatory chapter, these steps were taken:

- Set up the advisory committee of subject matter experts
- Advisory committee developed the knowledge expectations
- Writer was hired to write the chapter
- Editing in-house
- Went out for review to advisory committee.
- It is now back in the rewrite stage with the advisory committee.

Susan noted that the illustrations take forever. The more real and practical they are the better. She felt that we need this compendium to be pictorial because non-readers may use this book. The hope is to have a user-friendly study guide.

DPR has also asked UC IPM to develop a Fumigation manual. UC IPM has started the process to recruit a fumigation writer but as of yesterday the process was not completed yet.

Susan noted that the checklist for NRCS crops are on the web for the NRCS year round program – which includes Alfalfa, almonds, avocados, cotton, peaches, pears, plums, prunes, nectarines, tomatoes, wine and raisin grapes.

In the future Strawberries, walnuts, citrus, apricots, dried beans, potatoes, table grapes, and lettuce will be added.

UC IPM is reorganizing-

- Pete Goodell: Interim Director
- Joyce Strand: Associate Director of Communications, Integrated Publications, and Web Development.
- Mary Louis Flint: Associate Director for Urban IPM Planning and Implementation.

Dave Duncan: DPR works with UC and with subject matter experts (SMEs) including county commissioners and staff to develop study guides and examinations. Involving SMEs in the process helps to ensure the usefulness and applicability of the material.

**11:40-11:45**            **Next agenda and meeting date**  
                                 Committee

Pest Control Adviser minimum qualification revisions will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Meeting Date:** July 11, 2007 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 9:30 am - 12:30pm

**Place:** 1001 I street

Training room 1 East and West (First Floor)  
Sacramento

Questions about this agenda should be directed to David Duncan at (916) 445-3870 or [dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov)