# Maintenance Gardener

***Electronic Exams Pilot Project***

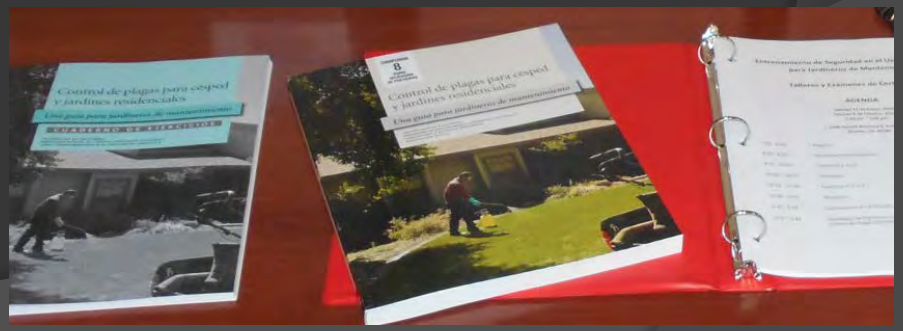
***January and February 2016***

***Placer and San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner offices***

***Laurie Brajkovich, CDPR***
***Licensing & Certification***

# Project Goals

- Investigate use of electronic exams
- Increase outreach to Maintenance Gardeners and get individuals certified
- Encourage use of available training materials
- Encourage MG businesses to get licensed
- Increase knowledge of pesticide use requirements and compliance



# MG Certification and Licensing

As of March 2015:

QAC Q = 857

MG PCB = 956

Total number of working maintenance gardeners who use pesticides … likely exceeds 1,000+

# Outreach

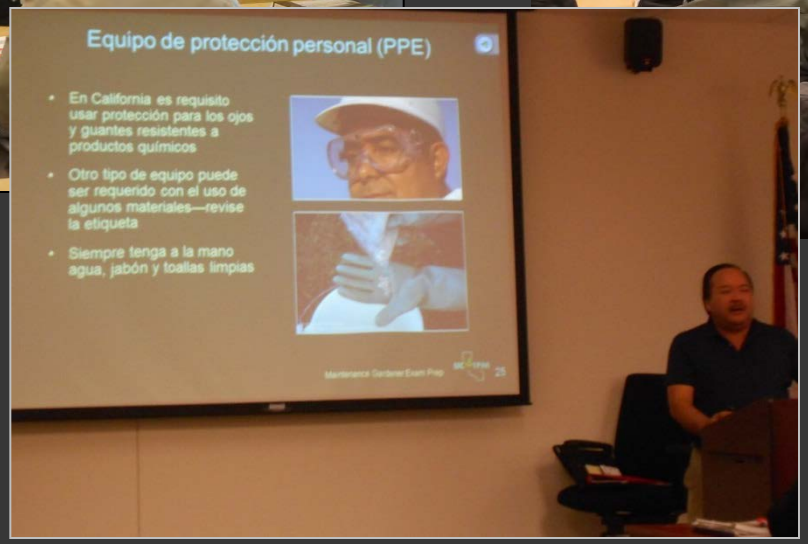
## Bilingual Advertisements

- **Spanish TV: Ads and news story**
- **Spanish Radio: Ads and DJ mentions**
- **Targeted mailings**
- **Compliance inspections**

# Training and Exam Workshops

- Held off-season Saturdays, Jan and Feb
- English & Spanish
- Small size (30 max)
- Used UC IPM training materials
- Held on Saturdays
  - 4 hour review workshop
  - electronic certification exam followed

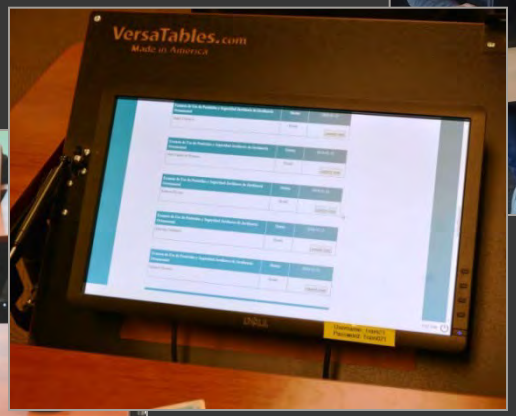
# Dynamic Bilingual Trainers

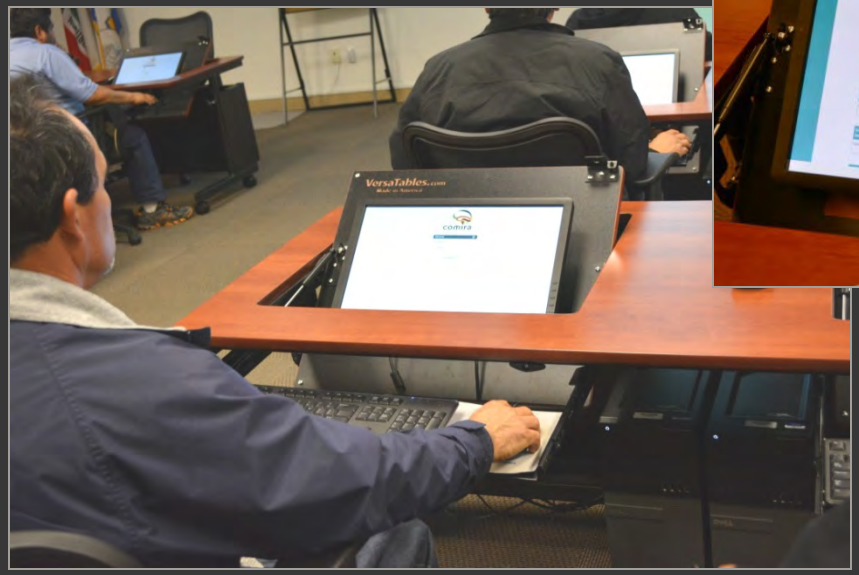



***Training materials developed by UC IPM emphasized knowledge expectations in study guide and workbook.***

# Electronic Certification Exams

***Contracted with Comira Test to provide computers and exam software/database and exam analytics***




At one Placer County event, 20% of the participants had no prior computer experiences

# Counties Encouraged MG Pest Control Business License Applications

# Electronic Exams

- English or Spanish
- Everyone had same exam questions
- No prior computer experience needed
- Questions and answers shuffled to prevent cheating
- Examinees adapted easy to using computer
- Drawings, pictures and calculator were included into exam – no need for additional handouts or tools
- Finished quicker than paper examinees

# Project Stats

- 2 workshops and exams in Placer County
  - *Both Spanish (70 multiple choice questions)*:

| Exams | % Pass | Avg. Score |
|---|---|---|
| Spanish – 41<br>English -1 | 71<br>100 | 50.5<br>62 |

- 3 workshops and exams in San Diego County
  - *1 English, 2 Spanish workshops*:

| Exams | % Pass | Avg. Score |
|---|---|---|
| Spanish – 47<br>English - 9 | 87<br>100 | 54.8<br>64 |

# Next Steps

- ***Broader application of electronic exams***
- ***Available vendor services***
- ***Regulatory requirements***
- ***Location and execution***

# Questions?

¿Preguntas?
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