

Meeting Notes
Yurok Environmental Monitoring Workgroup
Tribal Office, Eureka
Thursday, March 21, 2002

Participants: Lori Harder, Yurok Tribe Environmental Program
John Melvin, Yurok Tribe Environmental Program
Kevin McKernan, Environmental Program Director, Yurok Tribe
Jene McCovey, Yurok Tribe
Jennifer Kalt, California Indian Basketweavers Assoc.
Ron Johnson, California State University Humboldt
Ken Fetcho, Yurok Tribe

Ex officio: Kean Goh, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Pam Wofford, Department of Pesticide Regulation
Dave Cavyell, Del Norte County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Jeff Dolf, Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office
John Pricer, Simpson Timber Company
Rose Patenaude, Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board
Joelle Geppert, Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board

The meeting notes from October 17, 2002 were reviewed and approved. **Pam** stated that the draft final-report will be available for review in the Fall. There was some discussion over the content of the report and in particular, the inclusion of discussion and recommendation sections. **Kean** stated that our branch does environmental monitoring. We conduct studies to determine the concentrations of pesticides present in the environment, but are not qualify to do exposure/risk assessment and recommendations.

Lori discussed her work with the US EPA's Inert Disclosure Stakeholder Workgroup on Inert Ingredients in pesticides. The group has sent their recommendation on inert disclosure to the U.S. EPA. **Jene** requested a copy of the report and **Jennifer** requested a summary of the report. The website for the committee is: www.epa.gov/pesticides/ppdc/. **Joelle** asked if information on inert ingredients can be requested. **Lori** said that it depends if the information is considered to be confidential business information (CBI).

The next item on the agenda was discussion of the different agencies' roles for the remainder of the project. **Lori** stated that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) – will be providing sampling equipment, oversight and lab analysis. The Tribe will take over the field sampling. The contract with U.S. EPA has been extended until December 2002. **Rose** indicated that the Northcoast Regional Water Quality Control Board is interested in monitoring ground applications and may be able to offer some staff assistance and lab analysis. **Kevin** had some concern over the counties jurisdiction on the tribal reservation. The Tribe's position is that the tribe should have jurisdiction over pesticide use in the reservation.

The meeting continued with discussion about Simpson's spring spray plan. **John** said there will not be any aerial applications this spring. He presented the maps of the ground applications for 280 acres to be started in mid to late April. They will be applying Oust®, atrazine, and Garlon

®. He said they can do about 20 acres/day. John described their buffer zone areas around waterways and buildings. They use 50ft for class 3, 50 – 100ft for class 2 and up to 150ft for class 1 waterways. Buildings such as schools do not have a buffer zone for ground applications, but they do notify the school about the application.

The group went over the maps and gave recommendations on monitoring sites. DPR will supply two autosamplers for monitoring at two sites. Many on the Work Group were concerned about a site near Mynot Creek. **John** mentioned that they are considering doing hand clearing at that site. The sites pick for primary consideration are in the Johnson Creek and Mettah Creek areas. The final decision will be based on accessibility to place the autosamplers.

Kevin said the Tribe has put in a weather station near a site by Notchko so they may be able to provide Simpson with weather data during the spray time. **Kevin** also noted that the Tribe has put a gauging station in on McGarvey Creek and is planning one at Blue Creek and Terwer Creek.

There was some discussion on the possibility of other groups which may assist in taking water samples such as the Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program (SWAMP), but it was unclear what and where they sample. **Ron** also suggested collecting more plant samples at the areas where water monitoring will be conducted. It was concluded that we will focus on the water sampling this season and if possible we will consider taking acorn samples next fall spray season.

Jennifer presented her work on the pesticide application mapping in Del Norte County from 1996 - 1999.

The next meeting is set for Mid-August, 2002.