



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul Gosselin
Acting Director

MEMORANDUM

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

TO: Sue Edmiston, Agriculture Program Supervisor III
Worker Health and Safety Branch **HSM-04023**

FROM: Susan McCarthy, Program Specialist *[original signed by S. McCarthy]*
Worker Health and Safety Branch
(916) 445-6387

DATE: July 8, 2004

SUBJECT: CALIFORNIA FARMWORKER LANGUAGE SURVEY

As part of our fiscal year 2003/2004 cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Agency (U.S. EPA), the Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch included a proposal to design and conduct a survey of California counties to determine what ethnic groups are present in the agricultural community. Based on the results of the survey, WHS will prioritize the translation of our outreach and training materials.

Initially, we planned to rely on an analysis of census data to determine the various ethnic groups and the numbers of each that constitute the farmworker population. On November 5, 2003, I attended a demographics analysis training class in order to learn how to access and utilize United States Census data. Unfortunately, the U.S. Census uses broad categories for ethnic groups. For instance, all people from Mexico are identified as Hispanic or Latino. WHS is already aware that there is a large population of Mixteco farmworkers in California, many of whom do not speak Spanish. However, Mixtecos would be grouped in with Hispanic or Latino workers in the U.S. Census. The other census instruments (National Agricultural Workers Survey, United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service) that I sampled have the same limitations.

After determining that the available census data could not provide the information that I needed, I contacted a number of people in an effort to find reliable data. Some of the people/groups that I contacted are as follows: Anne Katten (California Rural Legal Assistance), Martha Guzman (United Farm Workers), Rick Mines (California Institute for Rural Studies), Richard Lopez (Employment Development Department), and Jim Grieshop (Continuing Education Specialist at U.C. Davis). Unfortunately, none of these knew of the existence of the type of data required.

Next we decided to contact all county agricultural commissioners (CAC) to ask them for information about the languages used by farmworkers in their respective counties. Before we sent out the questionnaire to the CACs, we contacted a few counties for input on which languages should be included. In early April we sent the questionnaire (available online at www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/cacletters.htm#2004). By mid-May, we had responses from twenty-one (21) counties. On May 24, I sent a reminder e-mail to the counties that had not responded,



asking for their input. Following that e-mail, thirteen (13) more counties responded. Following is the results of the survey.

- Counties that responded (Asterisk indicates the thirteen counties where the CACs listed Spanish as the only language they were aware of being used in the farmworker community.):

Alameda*	Inyo/Mono*	Placer	Santa Barbara*
Butte	Kern	Plumas/Sierra*	Santa Clara
Calaveras*	Kings	Riverside	Sutter
Contra Costa*	Lake	San Benito*	Tulare
Del Norte	Los Angeles*	San Bernardino	Tuolumne
El Dorado/Alpine*	Madera	San Diego	Yolo
Fresno	Marin*	San Francisco*	Yuba
Glenn	Mariposa*	San Luis Obispo	
Humboldt*	Napa	San Mateo	

- Languages listed by CACs (Some CACs provided estimated numbers. Others only identified which languages were used, indicated by an X below.):

County	Mixteco	Triquis	Zapoteco	Purepecha	Konjabal	Punjabi	Hmong	Tagalog	Korean	Taiwanese	Mandarin	Vietnamese	Mejica	Basque	Cantonese
Butte	300		150	X		300	X								
Del Norte							X								
Fresno	5000	X	X	X		5000	X	X							
Glenn	500					200									
Kern	100s		100s		100s	100s	<100	100s	<100						
Kings	X		X				X								
Lake							6								
Madera	X		X												
Napa	50						12	12							
Placer						100									
Riverside	X	X	X				X					X			
San Bernardino	200		150	100					50	100	75	25	100	15	75
San Diego*	X	X	X	X											
San Luis Obispo	X							X							
San Mateo								X							
Santa Clara															100
Sutter						1700	50								
Tulare	100s			<100		<100		<100							
Tuolumne	Few														
Yolo	<50		<50		<50	<50	<20	<20							
Yuba						1500	100	50							

*San Diego also listed Quechua