



March 20, 2020

EXECUTIVE OFFICE #20-01

TO: County Agricultural Commissioners

SUBJECT: COVID-19 – ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a State of Emergency in the State of California to curb the spread of COVID-19. This guidance responds to requests for clarity on the roles of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the county agricultural commissioners (CACs) during this emergency.

DPR and the CACs are jointly responsible for the administration and enforcement of the state pesticide program. The work that DPR and the CACs do is essential for the food supply and environmental protection, both of which are essential functions that must be maintained during the COVID-19 emergency.

Please be aware that timely compliance with all federal, state, and local pesticide requirements is generally considered to be an essential function during the COVID-19 emergency. As a result, DPR considers compliance with the state pesticide program to be within the essential activities, essential governmental functions, or comparable exceptions to shelter-in-place directives provided by public health officials.

As such, CACs should continue to support California's food supply while protecting public health and the environment. For example, CACs should continue to review and process restricted material permits, notices of intent, operator identification numbers, and county registrations for structural and agricultural pest control businesses. Likewise, CACs should continue to enforce pesticide use requirements, with a focus on investigating and resolving priority and drift incidents.

At the state level, DPR is implementing telework arrangements for its staff to the maximum extent feasible and is practicing effective social distancing for those in the office. Nonetheless, DPR will continue to be available as a resource to CAC offices and to provide updated guidance as appropriate during this fluid situation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Joe Marade, DPR's County/State Liaison at (916) 893-5578 or joe.marade@cdpr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Val Dolcini
Director
916-445-4000

cc: Mr. Joey Marade, DPR County/State Liaison
Enforcement Branch Liaisons