



## ***“From the Director”***

Brian R. Leahy, Director  
Department of Pesticide Regulation

Hello.....

This update captures a few of the major efforts and changes occurring at the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Science is constantly evolving and DPR is of course adapting to that and to public expectations: The latter has resulted in efforts to further protect school children from pesticide hazards as they are used by farm operations adjacent to schools. And as DPR further scrutinizes the urban use of pesticides, we believe that education and outreach will remain a constantly evolving activity. However we continue to take enforcement actions where necessary and we hope this helps to deter others who consider breaking our rules.

The recent retirement of DPR Associate Director Chuck Andrews after 35 years of state service resulted in several changes in management at DPR. I will personally miss working with Chuck and his vast knowledge and expertise in the world of pesticides. But he has left the department in a stronger shape as we continue the challenge of protecting Californians

- DPR Chief Science Advisor and Assistant Director Marylou Verder-Carlos along with Human Health Assessment Branch Chief Sheryl Beauvais spent a few busy days at U.S. EPA headquarters, in Washington, DC, meeting with scientists from U.S. EPA and Health Canada’s Pest Management Regulatory Agency. They attended several meetings and workshops tackling a wide range of pesticide issues.
- Kudos to our toxicologists Marilyn Silva, Carolyn Lewis, and Eric Kwok – the latest DPR scientists to have their work published in a scientific paper. The team has been looking at using new kinds of data in risk assessments in collaboration with other scientists from CalEPA.
- **Residue Produce Monitoring:** As you may have seen in recent media reports, DPR has fined six companies that repeatedly ignored our warnings and sold imported fruits and vegetables with illegal pesticide residues to predominantly ethnic minority customers. Some of the tainted produce had pesticide residues posing potential health risks to consumers. The companies, based in Los Angeles and the Bay Area, imported produce including lychees, ginger, taro root, fragrant pear, cactus leaves, and cactus pears from



Thailand, Taiwan, China, and Mexico. DPR removed all the tainted produce it found and gave the companies ample opportunities to change their methods but they chose not to do so. Photos of destroyed tainted produce can be found [here](#).

- **Chlorpyrifos:** Last month, DPR concluded its reevaluation of chlorpyrifos and its potential impact on surface water and aquatic invertebrates. However DPR is continuing efforts to identify and mitigate the potential risk of chlorpyrifos to humans. Reevaluation is a legal process that allows DPR to require companies to submit additional data on a specific issue that has arisen after the pesticide is registered for use. Once the necessary data has been submitted, the focused reevaluation process is concluded while DPR continues to address and fine tune the mitigations. As a result of the reevaluation process DPR has made it a restricted use material and imposed new conditions on the use of chlorpyrifos. In addition, DPR is currently reviewing a U.S. EPA draft risk assessment and anticipates developing further restrictions for California that will help mitigate the human health risks of chlorpyrifos. The enhanced risk assessment will likely be available around December 2015. This could lead to more use restrictions on the use of chlorpyrifos in California.
- **Training the trainers:** As part of DPR's effort to promote safer pesticide handling practices, we have partnered with the University of California, Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UCIPM). They will develop pesticide safety educational materials and methods for training those who train pesticide handlers and fieldworkers. This will help to reduce the risk of pesticide exposure to workers and their families and improve compliance with pesticide laws and regulations. This partnership has already helped to train 26 people and additional training sessions are planned for the future. Training materials are available in English and Spanish.



**School Notification Regulation:** DPR staff is currently drafting new rules that will address what must be done when agricultural pesticides are used on farms near schools. This is an important issue because California is the nation's most populated state and its farmers are the most productive. As a result, working farms are frequently located near where people work and live. Several hundred people including residents, teachers, students, and farmers attended our workshops in Sacramento, Salinas, Ventura, Oxnard, Lamont, and Riverside this spring and provided DPR with valuable input. We anticipate completing a draft regulation for public comment by December 2015. We may also hold a public hearing next year on this issue.



DPR is revising the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets that provide pesticide safety requirements to employees in a form that is clear and easy to understand. The leaflets have been redesigned using updated graphics, and can be read on mobile devices such as smartphones. The leaflets, in English, Spanish, and Punjabi and the updates will be published in October 2015.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm>



Our work to train and license Maintenance Gardeners to ensure pesticides are used safely has continued during the last few months. This is important work since the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reports that homeowners use up to 10 times more chemical pesticides per acre on their lawns than farmers use on crops! Of course there is a large potential for those pesticides to end up in our storm drains and

waterways. DPR has been working with San Diego and Placer counties amongst others to tackle this important issue.

- Alternatives to Less Toxic Tools:** The department is once again backing up its commitment to helping California find alternatives to fumigants, and the pesticide chlorpyrifos in the form of grants. We recently awarded more than \$1 million dollars to four Universities of California to help the state find less toxic tools to grow crops. The projects include UC Riverside researchers trying to find ways to protect tree crops from Argentine ants without using chlorpyrifos; and UC Davis scientists trying to find integrated **approaches to replace Methyl Bromide in strawberry production**. You can read about all projects and the grants here <http://bit.ly/1N4XVfm>

**Healthy Schools Act:** As a result of amendments to the Healthy Schools Act, which took effect this year, DPR staff is developing online training courses for licensed pesticide applicators, and school district and child care center staff. These free courses will be available in January 2016. (Those applying pesticides on school sites will have to complete the course by July 1, 2016.) This includes, but is not limited to, teachers who use disinfecting wipes, custodians who use sanitizers and, groundskeepers who apply herbicides.

**New faces and places:** A philosopher once said the only thing constant is change. With that in mind DPR recently said goodbye to DPR Associate Director, Chuck Andrews, who retired from the department in July, after 35 years of State service. Chuck leaves big shoes to fill, but I am extremely confident that George Farnsworth, our new Assistant Director of Pesticide Programs will build on Chuck's legacy and create his own footprint on the department. Farnsworth was formerly head of DPR enforcement. That critical role is now filled by Donna Marciano, the former Chief of Product Compliance Branch. Please help me welcome them all to their new roles.



Finally keep in contact with us! You can find us on many social media platforms, including Facebook and Twitter... DPR has a new listserv! If you want to receive updates about Human health Mitigations please sign up at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/listserv/listdesc.htm>. We will keep informed about proposed and final mitigation efforts, as well other activities related to control measures that reduce pesticide exposure to protect human health