



“From the Director”

Brian R. Leahy, Director
Department of Pesticide Regulation

May 14, 2013

Hello,

I am pleased to welcome new faces and promotions at the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Each of them brings a combination of expertise, enthusiasm and inquiring minds which will greatly enrich our team. I will share more with you on these exciting changes later on.

Firstly, I'd like to remind you that DPR is embarking on an exciting period of growth and change. My focus is to transition away from the conventional pesticides and help to accelerate the development of more benign products and practices to control pests. At the same time we have to ensure that people who use pesticides do so in a manner that is protective of people and the environment.



Strawberry Research: Our partnership with the strawberry industry which is facing a fumigant crisis is a prime example of this. You may have seen recent news coverage of the action plan produced the by [Nonfumigant Strawberry Production Working Group](#). It is our road map to guide the research required to find production practices and tools necessary to maintain a viable **strawberry industry without fumigants. The Action Plan complements DPR's research** partnership with the California Strawberry Commission which is examining ways to grow strawberries in substance other than soil, with alternatives to fumigants.



Pesticide Residue Monitoring: Dozens of people recently joined us in the Sierra Hearing room at Cal/EPA and via a live webcast, to learn more about testing produce for pesticides. This successful brown bag lunch is part of our communications strategy to help keep staff aware of the many facets of DPR. Mike Papathakis, from DPR enforcement branch and Poonam Chandra (CDFA) put a great

deal of work into their presentations and kept the conversation and questions flowing. They helped to highlight the importance of this program. Well done to everyone who was involved in this tremendous effort and look at the photos on our [Facebook](#) page.



Chloropicrin Outreach: *The Ear* This summer DPR will be doing a lot of listening to its stakeholders as we propose mitigation measures designed to protect bystanders and residents from acute exposures to chloropicrin. As part of this effort, DPR will be holding a series of public meetings in June, that are designed to give us input from the public, growers and other interested parties. DPR will then consider all comments received, before finalizing the proposal. DPR will then initiate the process to implement the mitigation measures anticipated to be in effect the following year.

Staffing:



Here's a toast to all the people that make the department work!

Jamal Maazouddin is a new Environmental Scientist with (DPR), Product Compliance Branch. Jamal joins DPR from the Department of Consumer Affairs, where he worked in the Home Furnishings and Textiles Section. As an Environmental Scientist with DPR, Mr. Maazouddin will conduct Marketplace Surveillance Inspections at retail, wholesale and distribution warehouse locations. His primary focus will be to ensure all pesticide products are properly registered and labeled. He will also follow-up on complaints regarding the sale of unregistered products sold into or within California.

Lu Saepanh is the new Branch Chief for the Fiscal Services and Business Operations Branch. **Lu has been DPR's Budget Officer since May of 2012. As the Budget Officer, Lu directed DPR's budget and managed the preparation of the Governor's Budget.** Lu came to DPR from the California Department of Transportation, where he worked on revenue forecasting and financial analysis. From 2007 to 2011, Lu worked as a budget analyst at the Department of Conservation and coordinated the budgets for various environmental programs.

Anise Severns is our new Assistant Director, Administrative Services Division. Anise came to DPR (from ARB) to manage our Business Services Office (Staff Services Manager I) in October 2005. Recognizing her leadership potential, she was promoted to the Fiscal Services & Business Operations Branch (FSBOB) Chief (Staff Services Manger II) in November 2006. Anise has stewarded our Budget, Accounting and

Business Services Offices. In addition, during 2012, Anise gained exposure to personnel services and labor relations serving as DPR's Personnel Officer. This latter experience allowed Anise to round-out her administrative knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Charlotte Fadipe is the new Assistant Director, Communications. Charlotte has more than 20 years of experience as a communications professional. For the last four years Charlotte has been the Chief of Media and Press Relations at Cal-**EPA's Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)**, where she helped plan, organize and direct communication efforts to publicize department initiatives, programs and policies. Fadipe is a former television journalist who has worked at NBC and CBS local news stations and the British Broadcasting Company (BBC) in England. Fadipe has a Master's Degree in journalism from UC Berkeley, and a BS in Chemistry and Education from Oxford Brookes University.

Larry Wasson is the new Chief Information Officer for DPR. Larry, who was previously a branch chief has worked for the department for eight years and has spent more than 30 years in a variety of IT technical and managerial jobs in the private sector. His primary goal is for the IT department to use current cost-effective and secure technology to implement and maintain **effective information systems to support DPR's business needs.**

Finally, don't forget to keep checking our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages

Thank You

Brian Leahy, Director

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