



Pest Management Advisory Committee Charter

**Revised
September 21, 2000**

Pest Management Advisory Committee Charter

Background

This Charter restructures the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC) in accordance with the recommendations stemming from the recently concluded evaluation conducted by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) of all of its advisory committees. The PMAC is one of two committees, the Pesticide Registration and Evaluation Committee (PREC) being the other, which is being reconstituted to advise the Director of DPR on a breadth of pesticide issues. The PREC is an interagency advisory committee and the PMAC is becoming an advisory body inclusive of other external stakeholders. The PREC will continue to fulfill the consultation mandates of the pesticide regulatory program's functional equivalency under the California Environmental Quality Act, and the PMAC will continue to provide consultation for the pest management alliance and grants programs. Other than these unique roles, the PMAC and PREC will both advise the Director of DPR on all aspects of the pesticide regulatory program from the particular perspectives of their respective memberships.

Mission/Purpose

The purpose of the PMAC is to foster communication and understanding among the parties represented on the committee and DPR. The PMAC will provide input to DPR in response to the standing question, "How are we doing?" The PMAC will provide advice and guidance to DPR on how best to fulfill the Department's mission to "protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and fostering reduced-risk pest management." The PMAC will advise DPR on regulatory development and reform initiatives, evolving public policy and program implementation issues, and science issues associated with evaluating the use of pesticides. With PMAC participation, DPR expects to develop practical, protective approaches to addressing many pesticide issues.

Authority

The PMAC was established by the Legislature (SB 1752) in Section 12536 of the Food and Agricultural Code. In addition, DPR has determined that the PMAC is in the public interest and supports DPR in performing its duties and responsibilities under the Food and Agricultural Code, including Sections 11501(f), 12536, and 14103, as well as Section 6256 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulation.

Objective and Scope of Activity

The PMAC will provide a forum for a diverse group of individuals representing a broad range of interest and backgrounds to communicate with, and provide feedback to, DPR regarding pesticide regulatory, policy, and implementation issues. The PMAC may be consulted on environmental, technical, scientific, policy, regulatory, and economic matters.

As necessary, the PMAC will hold meetings, analyze issues, review and compile information, produce reports, make recommendations, and undertake other activities necessary to meet its responsibilities. Comments, evaluations, and recommendations of the PMAC and the response of DPR shall be made available for public review. Meetings will be open to the public (unless an exemption to this is provided).

The chairperson of the PMAC has historically convened subcommittees for the purpose of reviewing applications for grant monies. Such subcommittees have usually been formed along the lines of specialty categories of grant submissions, and have been known to include participants who were not current PMAC members. The PMAC chairperson may form other subcommittees when appropriate. Participation in a subcommittee will not necessarily be reserved for PMAC members. The chairperson, with the concurrence of the committee, may solicit the participation of experts who themselves are not appointed members of the PMAC.

Functions

The PMAC's specific functions include:

- To advise DPR on regulatory development and reform initiatives, evolving public policy and program implementation issues, and science issues associated with evaluating the use of pesticides.
- To identify and evaluate proposed modifications to current policies and procedures employed by DPR to reduce the potential risks posed by pesticides, and to facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among the interested parties.
- To assist DPR in identifying, facilitating, and promoting reduced-risk pest management practices and pest management systems. Activities include, but are not limited to, reviewing proposals for pest management research and recommending to the DPR Director which proposals should be funded. Funds in the DPR Fund may be expended, upon appropriation, for pest management research purposes to carry out the recommendations of the PMAC.
- To promote the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Innovator Program to existing and potential participants and, along with the county agricultural commissioners, CDFG, University of California including Cooperative Extension, California State University system, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, local resource conservation districts, and others, to help locate groups employing innovative pest management systems.
- To provide leadership in working cooperatively with other interested parties to promote research, education, and demonstration of reduced-risk pest management practices in accordance with the "Pest Management Strategy for the Department of Pesticide Regulation."

Performance Criteria

Staff from the Office of Policy Coordination and Continuous Improvement (OPCCI) within DPR will conduct a confidential survey of PMAC members in 2001, and every two years thereafter, to poll members on the effectiveness of the committee and potential areas for improvement. The results of the confidential survey will be reported back to the committee and posted on DPR's web site. The Director of DPR will take any actions that he or she determines is necessary to improve the effectiveness of the committee.

Composition

The members of the Pest Management Advisory Committee are specified in regulations (3CCR Section 6256) and include six ex officio members who serve perpetually. The DPR Director, who serves as the Committee Chairperson, appoints the other twenty-four at-large PMAC members, who serve staggered three-year terms. Members are specified according to various categories of external stakeholders, and are selected based on their relevant expertise and diversity of perspectives on pesticide issues. The Chair fills vacancies for any unexpired term of office as appropriate. The chair may appoint subcommittees as needed to serve in an advisory capacity. Pest Management Advisory Committee members and any subcommittee members serve without compensation.

The 24 at-large members are distributed by category as follows:

- Academia and Public Foundations (5)
- Agricultural Production (6)
- Environmental and Public Interest Groups (4)
- Farm Labor Organizations (1)
- General Public and Consumer Advocacy (1)
- Nonagricultural Pesticide User Groups (1)
- Pest Control Advisors (2)
- Registrants and Trade Associations (4)

Meetings

The PMAC shall meet quarterly, or more frequently at the call of the DPR Director if special circumstances require a more timely session. Staff from DPR's OPCCI and the Environmental Monitoring and Pest Management Branch will provide administrative and process support to the Committee.

Duration

The Committee will be needed on a continuing basis. This charter will be in effect until revised. The PMAC will be periodically evaluated according to the performance criteria identified in this charter for its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission and functions. Subsequent to such reviews, revisions to this charter may be proposed.