



Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

September 11, 2019

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

CalEPA Building, Training Room East and West, First Floor

Members Present (10): Ronald Berg–Pesticide Dealers, Lisa Blecker–University of California, Margaret Ellis–Board of Trustees of the California University System, Glen Foth–Commercial Applicators, Chris Jones, Alternate, Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, Phil Mullins–Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, Matt Scally–Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners, Stephen Scheer–California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, Timothy Smith–Board of Governors of the California Community College System, Wayne Steel–Pesticide Registrants

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Staff (4): Joseph Damiano–Pest Management and Licensing (PML) Branch Chief, Laurie Brajkovich–Environmental Program Manager, Leslie Talpasanu–Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), Rebecca Olson–Staff Services Analyst

Guests (13): Kelly Amodeo–DPR Pesticide Programs, Ruthann Anderson–California Association of Pest Control Advisers, Lori Apodaca–California Citrus Mutual, Alexis Arenz–DPR Pest Management and Licensing, Jesse Cuevas–DPR Pesticide Programs, Nathan Desjarlais–DPR Enforcement, Val Dolcini–DPR Acting Director, Terry Gage–California Agricultural Aircraft Association (CAAA), Katrina Hunter–University of California, Dave Lawson–Western Plant Health Association, Donna Marciano–DPR Enforcement, Jill Townzen–DPR Pest Management and Licensing, Jessica Teague–DPR Pest Management and Licensing

Members Absent (4): John Erisey–Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, Dan Gudgel–Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, Jeanette Heinrichs–General Public, Kenneth Oneto–Producers

I. Administrative Topics — Laurie Brajkovich, Environmental Program Manager, DPR-PML

- Housekeeping
- Introductions

- APCAC has two new members: Stephen Scheer (Yuba County Agricultural Commissioner) representing the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association and Dr. Margaret Ellis (California State University Fresno) representing the Board of Trustees of the California State University System.
- Meeting Minutes from June 12, 2019 were approved.

II. DPR Update — Val Dolcini, Acting Director DPR

- Val Dolcini described his background before becoming Acting Director of DPR on June 1, including Administrator for the Farm Service Agency at the US Department of Agriculture under the Obama administration. He concurrently holds the position of Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for CalEPA.
- DPR announced the cancellation of chlorpyrifos on May 8. DPR is funding grants to find alternatives to chlorpyrifos, and has created a working group from various sectors of the agriculture industry to find chlorpyrifos replacements. In addition, 13 separate accusations have been filed to major registrants of chlorpyrifos.
- Current DPR projects include fumigants, integrated pest management work with the County Ag Commissioners, and ongoing cannabis pesticide studies.
- A discussion between the Acting Director and APCAC members and guests included the status of surveillance of online pesticide sales, the possibility of increased federal participation in residue testing of imported agricultural products, and the future of online continuing education in meeting federal certification and training standards.

III. Licensing Update — Laurie Brajkovich, DPR-PML

- In July, approximately 13,000 individual renewal packets were mailed. Approximately 1,700 have been returned for processing.
- Business renewal packets will be mailed out soon.
- DPR encourages all license/certificate holders to submit their renewals by November 1 in order to ensure renewal by the end of the year.
- DPR periodically sends out electronic mailing list messages reminding license/certificate holders about renewal deadlines.
- Postcards will be mailed soon after the business renewals are mailed.
- 5,400 exams have been proctored so far in 2019.
- Unmanned Aerial Pest Control Pilot certification began July 1. DPR has received 11 applications; 9 vector control and 2 apprentice. Four UAS pilots have been issued DPR pest control pilot certification.

IV. DPR Cannabis and Hemp Program Update — Rachel Kubiak, DPR

- 2017/2018: These were transitional years moving from medicinal to recreational cannabis, as DPR developed guidance for stakeholders and made recommendations to the Bureau of Cannabis Control about pesticide active ingredients and action levels for testing residues on cannabis.
 - In DPR's eyes, cannabis is an agricultural commodity like any other agricultural commodity.

- Cannabis is unusual in that it is regulated from the bottom up, i.e. a city can approve growing while the county may not.
- 2018/2019: DPR continued risk assessment of pesticides for residue testing. (Over time, risk assessments will change as more scientific information is available.) There was continued focus on human health and environmental protection. DPR inspected over 100 retail establishments and more than 30 cases were developed. Focus on illegal cannabis cultivations began.
- 2019/2020: DPR is now focusing on the illegal cannabis side, trying to find ways to deal with illegal and dangerous cannabis grows and to find the means of getting plant samples from these sites after a raid. There is a shift from education to enforcement of pesticide laws and regulations, continued assessment of pesticides and action levels for residue testing, and implementation of a cannabis consumption study for risk assessments.

V. CDFA Cannabis Licensing Program Update — Lindsay Rains, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

- Brief history of CalCannabis:
 - Since 2016 it grew from one employee to 100 employees
 - Completed a programmatic environmental impact report by 2018
 - Procured and configured two IT systems
 - Developed and implemented procedures for application review and approval, license denial, suspension, and revocation
- CalCannabis created six categories of licenses which depend on the size of the canopy, and within each category the licenses are classified by type of lighting, i.e. “Outdoor,” “Indoor,” or “Mixed Light.” In addition, a “Processor” license was created for those only “trim, dry, cure, grade, or package cannabis or non-manufactured cannabis products.”
- Provisional and annual licenses cost between \$1,500 and \$80,000 per year.
- The top four counties of licenses issued are Santa Barbara, Humboldt, Monterey, and Mendocino.
- Public searches and weekly reports for cannabis licensing are available at CalCannabis@cdfa.ca.gov

VI. Next Agenda – Date and Topics – Laurie Brajkovich, DPR-PML

Date of next meeting: Dec. 11, 2019

Time: 10:00 am -12:00 pm

Location: Training Room East and West, First Floor

Possible topics may include:

- BeeWhere Beekeeper registration update
- A picture of the APCAC committee will likely be taken during this meeting.

Questions should be directed to Laurie Brajkovich at 916-445-9903 or Laurie.Brajkovich@cdpr.ca.gov.