

# Mission and Organization

Since its creation about a quarter century ago, the mission of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has been to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.

DPR's strict oversight begins with pesticide product evaluation and registration and continues through statewide licensing of commercial applicators, dealers, consultants, and other pesticide professionals; evaluation of health impacts of pesticides through illness surveillance and risk assessment; environmental monitoring of air, water and soil; field enforcement (with county agricultural commissioners) of laws regulating pesticide use; residue testing of fresh produce; and encouraging development and adoption of least-toxic pest management practices through incentives and grants.

California's Food and Agricultural Code authorizes the state's pesticide regulatory program and mandates it to:

- *Provide for the proper, safe and efficient use of pesticides essential for production of food and fiber, and for protection of public health and safety.*
- *Protect the environment from environmentally harmful pesticides by prohibiting, regulating or ensuring proper stewardship of those pesticides.*
- *Assure agricultural and pest control workers have safe working conditions where pesticides are present.*
- *Authorize agricultural pest control by competent and responsible licensees and permittees under strict control of DPR and the state's county agricultural commissioners.*
- *Assure pesticides are properly labeled and appropriate for the use designated by the label, and that state or local governmental dissemination of information on pesticidal uses of any registered pesticide product is consistent with the uses for which the product is registered.*
- *Encourage the development and implementation of pest management systems, stressing application of biological and cultural pest control techniques with selective pesticides when necessary to achieve acceptable levels of control with the least possible harm to public health, nontarget organisms, and the environment.*

The state's pesticide regulatory program had its beginnings in the early 1920s as a function of the California Department of Agriculture—later called the Department of Food and Agriculture. (*See Appendix C for more on DPR's history*).

DPR was created in 1991, within the then-newly-created California Environmental Protection Agency.

DPR today has a staff of about 400, including a large number of scientists from many disciplines. In 2016-17, the department had an annual operating budget of about \$100.8 million.

DPR is organized into the Pesticide Programs Division, Administrative Services Division, and the Office of Technology Services, with 9 branches between them. DPR's Executive Office also has offices for legal affairs, legislation and



*To protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.*

— DPR Mission Statement



**DPR Worker Health and Safety scientists travel throughout the state to share information with workers, farmers, community members and experts.**

policy, communications, and outreach and public engagement.

In carrying out its mission, DPR also partners with county agricultural commissioners and their staffs who enforce pesticide laws in their counties.

### PESTICIDE PROGRAMS DIVISION

#### Pesticide Registration Branch

One of seven branches in the Pesticide Programs Division, the Pesticide Registration Branch is responsible for the scientific evaluation and registration of pesticide products. A pesticide product must be registered (licensed) with the state before it can be used, possessed or offered for sale in California.

The Pesticide Registration Branch coordinates the required scientific data evaluation process among branches within the Pesticide Programs Division and with other state agencies. The branch also serves as primary liaison to companies applying to register their products (called registrants). It prepares public notices and corresponds with registrants regarding data requirements, determinations of the health effects of pesticides, and final actions on registrations.

Branch scientists share scientific data review responsibilities with staff scientists in other branches. The branch also manages all data received and oversees call-ins of data on environmental fate and acute and chronic toxicology. It maintains label files and the pesticide data library, and provides information to pesticide enforcement agencies and the public on the registration status of pesticides and about product label instructions.

#### Human Health Assessment Branch

The Human Health Assessment Branch has two major functions: review of toxicology studies and preparation of risk assessments. DPR requires registrants of certain products to submit data on a product's potential chronic, sub-chronic, and acute health effects.

Branch staff scientists review the data for new active ingredients and new products containing currently registered active ingredients; label amendments on currently registered products; and reevaluation of currently registered active ingredients. Staff scientists review toxicology data for adequacy and indications of possible adverse health effects. They use the results of these reviews and exposure information from other branches to assess the adequacy of product labels, and to conduct health risk evaluations and risk assessments that estimate the potential for adverse health effects in humans.

#### Worker Health and Safety Branch

The Worker Health and Safety (WHS) Branch is responsible for human safety (workers and the public) during and after pesticide use. The WHS Branch's Human Health Mitigation Program evaluates exposure and risk assessments to develop and implement mitigation measures that reduce the risk of worker and public exposure to pesticides.

The Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program (PISP) analyzes investigations and maintains a database of pesticide-related illnesses. The PISP database helps confirm the effectiveness of exposure control measures and identifies areas where improvements are needed. A medical consultant provides medical advice and assistance to physicians on pesticide exposures.

Exposure Monitoring and Industrial Hygiene Program scientists design and conduct field research to characterize exposure to pesticides for use in exposure assessments and investigate unsafe work conditions detected by the PISP. Industrial hygienists evaluate workplaces, application equipment and pesticide

labeling for effectiveness in controlling exposure hazards, and recommend safety measures when needed.

### Pesticide Enforcement Branch

DPR oversees a multi-tiered enforcement infrastructure and is vested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with the primary authority to enforce federal pesticide-use laws in California. The Pesticide Enforcement Branch’s responsibility is to enforce federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the proper and safe use of pesticides. The branch has oversight responsibility for pesticide incident investigations and enforcement response to pesticide use violations, conducts outreach, provides guidance to county regulators, trains inspectors, and evaluates effectiveness of county pesticide use programs. The Enforcement Branch also operates the nation’s largest state monitoring and enforcement program to ensure domestic and imported produce are free from illegal pesticide residues.

Pesticide use enforcement in the field is largely carried out by California's 55 county agricultural commissioners (CACs) and their staffs (roughly 280 biologists). DPR headquarters personnel—with field staff in Anaheim, Clovis and West Sacramento—provide training, coordination, and technical support to the counties.

The branch also is charged with overseeing the Product Compliance Inspections Unit, which ensures all pesticide products sold for use in California are registered and properly labeled. They do so with field inspections of pesticide wholesalers and retailers to determine whether products are registered and if labels are identical to registered labels. When violations of pesticide sales or labeling requirements are found, the branch takes the lead in directing the investigation, collecting evidence and documenting findings that will serve to prove the violation.

### Environmental Monitoring Branch

The Environmental Monitoring Branch monitors the environment to determine the fate of pesticides, analyzing potential hazards in air, soil, ground water, and surface water. It uses scientific data to develop pollution prevention strategies to protect public health and the environment from the potentially adverse effects of pesticides. The branch develops methods for collecting and analyzing environmental samples for pesticides and evaluates environmental data submitted by registrants. The branch provides environmental monitoring data required for emergency eradication projects, environmental contamination assessments, pesticide registration and reevaluation, and human exposure evaluations. The branch takes the lead in carrying out many DPR environmental protection programs, including the Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act, designed to prevent ground water pollution by pesticides.

### Pest Management and Licensing Branch

The Pest Management and Licensing Branch has five major programs. The Pest Management Analysis and Planning Program evaluates pesticide and pest management problems and awards grants to develop and promote new strategies that reduce adverse environmental effects and hazards from pesticide use in agricultural, nonagricultural and urban settings. The Pesticide Use Reporting Program collects, reviews and analyzes pesticide use data in California. The Endangered Species Project maps habitats of federally listed species, evaluates pesticide exposure risks on inhabited sites, and develops protective strategies to minimize those risks. The Licensing and Certification Program examines and licenses those who sell, apply commercially, or consult on the use of pesticides. It also accredits continuing education courses and collaborates with the University of California for the development of license exam study guides and exam



DPR operates a network of air monitoring stations in farming regions.



DPR product compliance inspectors annually visit about 250 locations throughout the state—including general merchandise, grocery, hardware and sporting goods stores—to ensure pesticide products sold for use in California are registered and properly labeled.

questions. The School and Child Care IPM Program promotes and facilitates the training of California school and daycare staff in the adoption of integrated pest management strategies for public schools and public and private daycare sites.

### ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division provides those services necessary for running a government agency, such as personnel, accounting, budgeting, contracting and related functions. The division provides support services to address the needs of the entire department to maintain and improve business processes.

#### Fiscal, Audits and Business Services Branch

The Fiscal, Audits and Business Services Branch collects revenue and pays invoices, monitors cash flow, develops and monitors DPR's annual budget, assists program staff with contracting and purchasing, oversees asset management and conducts other business services.

The branch also audits pesticide sellers throughout the United States to ensure that they comply with sales reporting and mill assessment payments (*See Chapter 13 for more on the mill assessment*). They also follow up if violations are found. The branch is also responsible for disbursing a percentage of mill assessment revenue to CACs to help support local pesticide enforcement.

#### Human Resources Branch

The Human Resources Branch administers and oversees all personnel activities, including recruitment, examinations, hiring, labor relations, employee health and job safety, benefits and payroll, workforce development/succession planning, administrative directives, employee recognition, training, and operational and strategic planning.

### OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

The Office of Technology Services provides department-wide information technology related activities and technical oversight to county agricultural commissioners in the automation and maintenance of the department's enforcement and use programs.

#### Information Technology Branch

The Information Technology Branch (ITB) operates under a centralized IT governance model. ITB is responsible for department-wide activities such as network services, server and desktop support, application and database development, management and support, internal and external website design and administration, and information security.

### STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL BOARD

Formerly under the direction of the DPR, the Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) licenses and regulates structural pest-control businesses and professionals and addresses consumer complaints through mediation and enforcement of the Structural Pest Control Act.

The seven-member board and its employees:

- Develop rules and regulations for licensing, examination, training, and practice standards, and oversee the administration of licensing exams.
- Issue licenses in three categories—applicators, field representatives and opera-

## Strategic planning

DPR has broad authority to regulate pesticides in California and a responsibility to regulate in a manner that is fair, effective, efficient, and responsive to our various constituencies. This mandate requires practical and productive planning. Realizing this, DPR has created a blueprint to build a dynamic organization committed to environmental protection and with the capacity to anticipate and react to a changing world. Strategic planning gives us that blueprint.

DPR, working in concert with the county agricultural commissioners (CACs), began work on its first strategic plan in the fall of 1993, in response to the passage of legislation (Chapter 418, SB 1082, Statutes of 1993) that among other things required CalEPA and all its departments, boards, and offices to “institute quality government programs to achieve increased levels of environmental protection and the public’s satisfaction through improving the quality, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of the state programs which implement and enforce state and federal environmental protection statutes.”

The legislation stated that the quality government programs must include:

- *A process for obtaining the views of employees, the regulated community, the public, environmental organizations, and governmental officials with regard to the performance, vision, and needs of the agency implementing the quality government program.*
- *A process for developing measurable performance objectives using the views of the persons and organizations specified in the first paragraph.*
- *Processes for continually improving quality and for training agency personnel, using the information obtained from implementing the first two paragraphs.*

Strategic planning was given a further boost in 1994, with the passage of the State Government Strategic Planning and Performance and Review Act (Chapter 779, AB 2711). It required that “in developing its strategic plan, each agency, department, office, or commission shall consult with at least the following affected parties: employee organizations, the Legislature, client groups served, suppliers, and contractors.” Strategic plans were also to “identify the steps being taken to develop performance measures that could be used for a performance budgeting system or a performance review.”

The legislation also required the State Department of Finance (DOF) to annually survey agencies to obtain specified information concerning strategic plans and to recom-

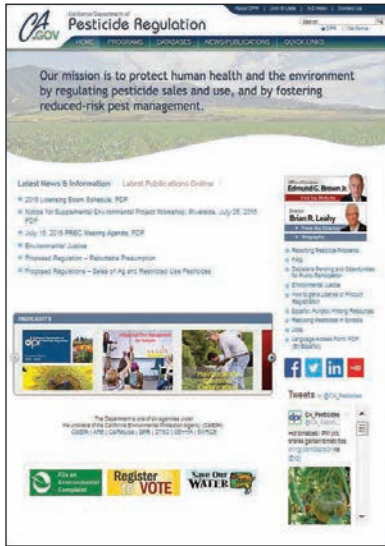
mend which agencies should develop or update a strategic plan. It also required DOF to develop a plan for conducting performance reviews of those state agencies which DOF recommended have strategic plans. In 1996, in a report to the Legislature on strategic planning, DOF recommended that all agencies have a strategic plan and, later that year, issued a strategic planning directive. It mandated that all agencies have strategic plans in place by July 1, 1997, and stated that future budgetary requests would only be approved if consistent with an approved strategic plan.

DPR’s 2013 strategic plan lays out six goals with several accompanying objectives which include:

- *Protecting people and the environment by assuring California’s environment is not adversely affected by pesticides and that all people are protected from unacceptable pesticide risks.*
- *Advancing reduced-risk pest management systems by advancing the research, development and adoption of effective pest management systems that reduce risks to people and the environment.*
- *Enforcing and achieving compliance by maintaining and continuously improving strong and equitable compliance and enforcement programs to ensure people and the environment are not exposed to unacceptable pesticide risks.*
- *Ensuring environmental justice—protecting all people in California, regardless of race, age, culture, income, or geographic location, from adverse environmental and health effects of pesticides.*
- *Continuously improving performance, accountability and organizational effectiveness by attracting and retaining a competent workforce, implementing effective business processes, and using current technology.*
- *Using communication and outreach to promote an understanding and awareness of DPR programs, priorities, initiatives and accomplishments through effective external communications, outreach and public education.*

More information on DPR’s strategic planning process can be found online at [www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/planning/stratmenu.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/planning/stratmenu.htm)

## Chapter 1: Mission and Organization



DPR's website, [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov), provides access to a variety of publications, educational videos, forms and databases.

tors—and issue registrations to principal offices and branch offices.

- Review consumer complaints about licensees and work to mediate solutions.
- Investigate alleged violations of the Structural Pest Control Act or related laws and regulations, conduct records inspections, and file disciplinary actions as required.
- Conduct and evaluate research on the control of structural pests, including termites, ants and cockroaches.

Legislation in 2009 (Chapter 18, Statutes of 2009-10 Fourth Extraordinary Session) transferred the SPCB from the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) to DPR.

The board was transferred back to DCA in 2013, under the Governor's Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 2012.

DPR continues to regulate the pesticides used and CACs still monitor applications.