



Karen Morrison  
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# Department of Pesticide Regulation

Gov. Gavin Newsom  
Governor

Yana Garcia  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

## Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee

### Meeting Summary

**December 10, 2025**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

**Members Present (6):** **Ronald Berg** – Pesticide Dealers, **Rick Miller** – Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders, **Jhalendra Rijal** – University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, **Jill LeVake** – Pesticide Registrants, **Margaret Ellis** – Board of Trustees of the California State University System, **Matt Scally** – Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners

**Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) Enforcement Branch, Licensing and Certification (7):** **Joshua Ogawa** – Branch Chief, **Alicia Scott** – Environmental Program Manager I, **Kenneth King** – Associate Governmental Program Analyst, **Jessica Teague** – Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), **Ashley De La Torre** – Environmental Scientist, **Joan Orr** – Office Technician (Typing), **Steve Peterson** – Environmental Scientist

**Guest (6):** **Terry Gage** – California Agricultural Aircraft Association, **Jill Townzen** – Environmental Program Manager II, DPR Pesticide Evaluation Branch, **Bryan George** – Environmental Program Manager I (Supervisory), Plants, Pests, and Disease Program, **Juvenio Guerra** – Information Officer II, DPR Outreach and Public Engagement Office, **Savannah Gosselin** – Kahn, Soares & Conway, LLP, **Maryana Schmidt** – Pesticide Applicators Professional Association

**Members Absent (6):** **John Erisey** – Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, **Phil Mullins** – Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, **Timothy Smith** – Board of Governors of the California Community College System, **Jeanette Heinrichs** – General Public, **Stephen Scheer** – California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, **Dan Gudgel** – Pest Control Aircraft Pilots

#### **I. Welcome – Alicia Scott, DPR Licensing and Certification**

#### **II. Administrative Topics – Alicia Scott, DPR Licensing and Certification**

- a. Member and audience introductions
- b. If there are any comments to the September meeting notes, please let us know. If there are no corrections, they will be posted to the website.

### **III. DPR Updates – Joshua Ogawa, DPR Enforcement Headquarters**

- i. Informal public workshop on pesticide-treated seeds occurred on October 29, 2025.
- ii. Enforcement regulatory workshop planned for upcoming 2026 year.
- iii. AB 1016 – Private Applicator Drone workgroup still ongoing.

### **IV. SprayDays Update- Juvenio Guerra, DPR Outreach and Public Engagement Office**

- a. What is SprayDays
  - i. First statewide pesticide notification system
  - ii. Provides timely information about scheduled restricted material pesticide application in production agriculture
  - iii. Publicly accessible website with interactive map
- b. Six-Month Update: Sign-Ups
  - i. Website traffic influenced by several factors – outreach, media coverage, population size
    - 1. Total views: 72,938
    - 2. Total Pesticide Map page view: 24,499
      - a. Average time spent: 1 minute 49 seconds
    - 3. Unique visitors: 18,954
    - 4. Device Preference: 58% mobile, 42% desktop
      - a. General public prefers receiving information by texts
    - 5. Total notification sign-ups: 3,762 (51% text, 31% email, and 18% both)
    - 6. Total unique locations for notifications: 3,374
    - 7. Total locations in the system: 4,331
    - 8. Average number of locations per sign-up: ~1.15
  - ii. Top Counties by sign-up
    - 1. Monterey
    - 2. Ventura
    - 3. Santa Cruz
    - 4. Santa Clara
    - 5. Stanislaus
    - 6. Tulare
    - 7. Fresno
    - 8. Merced
    - 9. Madera
    - 10. San Joaquin

c. Notifications

- i. Total Notices of Intent (NOIs) mapped: 41,292
- ii. Total notification messages to users who signed up for texts: 73,257

d. Improvements

- i. Bold map section numbers and recent application indicators
- ii. Address confirmation and section-based sign-up options
- iii. Plain language updates and expanded FAQ with keyword search
- iv. Added multilingual resources
- v. Improved performance for high website traffic and to better serve rural areas

e. Outreach

- i. Web, radio, social media (English & Spanish)
- ii. Out of home ads in Fresno, Kern, Tulare, Monterey, Merced, Kings, Ventura, and Imperial counties – information on vehicles and grocery store posters (English & Spanish)
- iii. TV ads in multiple languages
- iv. County Fair booths

f. Next Steps

- i. Receive feedback from public, State Board of Food and Agriculture, and DPR's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee
  1. The department plans to release its first annual report in early 2026

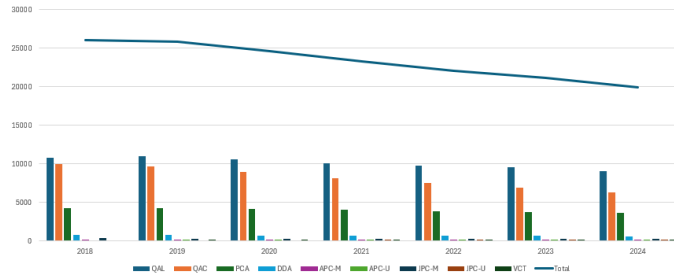
**V. DPR Licensing and Certification Renewal Updates – Kenneth King, Licensing and Certification Program**

a. New Licenses

- i. Since September 1, 2025, 458 new licenses and certificates have been issued
  1. QAL – 137
  2. QAC – 101
  3. DDA – 31
  4. PCA – 28
  5. APC – 10
  6. JPC – 5
  7. VCT – 3

ii. Number of Licenses 2018-2024

Number of Licenses 2018-2024



License Type	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
QAL	10802	10913	10536	10089	9743	9486	9013
QAC	9903	9595	8926	8137	7441	6908	6243
PCA	4198	4216	4092	3975	3827	3727	3594
DDA	693	702	670	677	656	622	571
APC-M	150	144	129	132	117	109	120
APC-U	0	1	12	19	23	33	56
JPC-M	288	277	260	229	216	208	200
JPC-U	0	0	0	3	7	12	17
VCT	0	9	11	17	25	31	33
Total	26034	25857	24636	23278	22055	21136	19847

b. Renewal Challenges this Season

- i. Increase in the number of emails and phone calls
- ii. Mail delivery time
- iii. Volume of renewals
  - 1. Currently, ~50% of renewals are received and January/February is expected to receive an influx of renewals
  - 2. Questions/concerns
    - a. Is the 50% return normal during this time? Is the increase in phone calls and emails higher this year than last?

c. New Tool to Help you Track CE Hours

- i. CE hours submitted to DPR by CE sponsors are now included on the list of license and certificate holders on our website.
- ii. Three CE Summary Options for 2025 Renewal
  - 1. If the valid license list shows the full requirement is completed, you don't need to completely fill out the CE Summary form (LIC-141, pg 2).
  - 2). Please write on the form that you have verified your hours on our

website and report that you meet the CE hours requirement to renew. Submit this form with your renewal packet

2. If valid license list shows less than the full requirement is completed, you can contact license mail to request a detailed report of CE hours reported to DPR. Any approved courses you attended that are missing from your report must be added to the LIC-141 pg. 2 form.
3. Completely fill out the LIC-141 pg. 2 form to self-report the hours completed and submit form with renewal.

iii. Questions/Comments

1. Has this process helped speed up individual renewals? How is this compared to last year renewals?
2. How many renewals are stating that individuals have met CE requirements as compared to sending in verification of attendance certificates?
3. If individuals stated that they met their CE hour requirements, they don't need to submit verification of attendance certificates?
4. Has there been outreach about DPR tracking hours?

d. Top 6 Renewal Issues

- i. Renewal form missing
- ii. Renewal form not signed
- iii. Missing CE records
- iv. Proof of financial responsibility missing (for businesses)
- v. Incorrect payment amount
- vi. Qualified person not renewed

e. Sign Up for Our Email Subscription List

f. Questions/Comments

- i. Since there is a decrease in every category in the past 5-6 years, do you have any thoughts about this? What could be contributing?

## **VI. Sponsor Records Submission Requirements – Kenneth King, Licensing and Certification Program**

a. Overview of Submission Requirements

i. 3 CCR 6513(d)

1. Instructor to sponsoring organization must submit, at minimum, the following information to the department within 14 days after completion of a course for each license and certificate holder

- a. License or certificate holder's name
- b. License or certificate number
- c. Title of course
- d. Name of the CE sponsor
- e. Location of course
- f. Course completion date
- g. Number of hours attended in each CE category
- h. The course identification code

b. Missing Record Issues

- i. In 2025, 3,390 courses were held and DPR did not receive records for over 300 courses
  1. No records submitted, no attendees, course cancelled, submission errors not corrected and submitted
  2. Missing attendance records lead to inaccurate CE hour totals and course reports provided to license holders
  3. Inaccurate CE hour totals/course reports slow down renewal processing
  4. Sponsors failing to submit records violate regulations

c. Current Submission Reminders

- i. 14-day reminder email
- ii. Monthly reminder email

d. Additional 2026 Submission Reminders

- i. Sponsor Records team will call in addition to the monthly reminder two months after a course date notifying them that attendance records are missing
- ii. If no records are submitted to DPR, the sponsor is not meeting all regulatory requirements
- iii. DPR will continue to work with sponsors to understand all requirements and the importance of providing accurate records

e. Questions/Comments

- i. Do sponsors need to let Sponsor Records know if a course was cancelled, or if there were no attendees?
- ii. Have the sponsors been compliant with submitting attendance records from this year to last year?

## VII. Proposed Rulemaking: Pesticide-Treated Seeds – Bryan George, Pesticide Evaluation Branch

- a. Overview
  - i. Pesticide-treated seeds
  - ii. Regulatory framework and background
  - iii. Draft proposed regulations
- b. Pesticide-Treated Seeds
  - i. Seed treatment products are applied to seeds to introduce pest protection at the time of planting
  - ii. Many active ingredients in pesticide treated seeds (fungicides, insecticides, bactericides)
- c. Regulatory Framework
  - i. Seed treatment products
    - 1. EPA-registered under FIFRA
    - 2. DPR-registered under FIFRA and CA FAC
  - ii. Pesticide-treated seeds
    - 1. EPA-exempt from registration as “treated article”
    - 2. DPR-exempt from registration in draft proposed regulations
- d. Seed Treatment Products in California
  - i. Seed treatment products must be registered for use as an application to seed
  - ii. There are 235 seed treatment products currently registered in CA
- e. Purchasing and Planting
  - i. How are pesticide-treated seeds purchased?
    - 1. Pre-treated directly from large seed/pesticide companies
      - a. Selection of standard treatments and extensive labeling
    - 2. Through dealer network
      - a. Pre-treated
      - b. Untreated
  - ii. How are pesticide-treated seeds planted?
    - 1. Mainly by growers and their employees
- f. Background

- i. In 2021, DPR held a public workshop on pesticide-treated seeds to focus on:
      - 1. Characterizing current regulatory framework surrounding seed treatment products and pesticide-treated seeds
      - 2. Gather additional information on use and potential impacts of pesticide-treated seeds
- g. Pesticide-Treated Seed Application Rates
  - i. Application rate for pesticide-treated seed expected to be much lower than soil or foliar treatments
    - 1. Example 1: Lettuce (mefenoxam)
      - a. Seed treatment:
        - i. Seeding rate of one pound per acre
        - ii. 0.64 fl oz per 100 pound seed = ~0.00015 pound per acre
      - b. Foliar spray:
        - i. Max rate of 0.25 pt/A = 0.125 pound per acre
    - 2. Example 2: Lettuce (clothianidin)
      - a. Seed treatment:
        - i. Seeding rate of one pound per acre
        - ii. 132.6 fl oz/100 pound seed = ~ 0.052 pound per acre
      - b. Soil application:
        - i. Max rate of 12 fl oz per acre = 0.200 pound per acre
- h. Summary of Federal Litigation
  - i. In 2017, Center for Food Safety (CFS) filed a petition with U.S. EPA regarding the treated article exemption to seeds treated with systemic insecticides and requested a formal re-interpretation. CFS filed a lawsuit regarding U.S. EPA's denial of petition
  - ii. In 2024, a California federal district court ruled in favor of U.S. EPA, holding that U.S. EPA acted within its authority to exempt pesticide-treated seeds from registration under the treated article exemption
- i. Summary of CA Lawsuit and Settlement Agreement
  - i. In February 2023, environmental groups filed a lawsuit against DPR alleging that its handling of pesticide-treated seeds constituted an underground regulation in violation of the Administrative Procedures Act
  - ii. In October 2024, DPR reached a settlement agreement with NRDC that requires DPR to submit proposed regulations to the Office of Administrative Law to address the following:

1. Whether treated seeds used, delivered or sold in CA must be treated solely with pesticide products registered by DPR for that purpose
2. DPR's authority to assess and require mitigation of environmental and human health impacts that DPR identifies as having been caused by the use of pesticide products used to treat seeds and by pesticide-treated seeds
3. Reporting of sales and uses of pesticide-treated seeds. DPR will consult with the CA Department of Food and Agriculture

j. Recent Legislation (AB 1042/FAC 52484)

- i. New requirements for seed tag labeling for seeds shipped, delivered, transported or sold in California effective 1/1/2027
  1. U.S. EPA registration numbers of applicable pesticides applied to seed
  2. Quantity applied by weight or amount per seed

k. Proposed Regulatory Approach

- i. Ensure pesticide-treated seeds planted in the state are treated with seed treatment products that have been registered by DPR
- ii. Require pesticide use reporting of pesticide-treated seeds
- iii. Enable DPR to identify potential risks from use of pesticide-treated seeds

l. Proposed Approach

- i. Add a definition of pesticide-treated seeds (3 CCR 6000)
- ii. Add pesticide-treated seeds to the list of pesticides exempt from registration, as long as they meet certain CA conditions (3 CCR 6147)
- iii. Require the reporting of pesticide-treated seeds planted in CA (3 CCR 6626.5)
- iv. Provide appropriate exemptions to the distance restrictions for pesticide-treated seed use near school sites under certain conditions (3 CCR 6691)

m. Definition of Pesticide-Treated Seed

- i. Proposed addition to 3 CCR 6000
  1. "Pesticide-treated seed" means any seed treated with one or more pesticides

n. Registration Exemption

- i. Proposed additions to 3 CCR 6147

1. Pesticide-treated seeds would be exempt from registration as long as the following conditions are met
    - a. The seed is treated with a pesticide to protect the seed itself
    - b. The pesticide is registered by DPR as a seed treatment product
    - c. The seed is properly labeled as specified in FAC 52484
  - ii. DPR does not intend to register pesticide-treated seeds
- o. Pesticide Use Reporting (PUR)
- i. Proposed new section 3 CCR 6626.5 to require reporting of pesticide-treated seed use
    1. Mirrors monthly aggregate record-keeping and reporting requirements
    2. By commodity and amount of treated seed applied
- p. Pesticide Use near Schoolsites
- i. Amend 3 CCR 6691 – Pesticide Application Restrictions
    1. Pesticide-treated seeds would be exempt from the distance restriction
    2. If pesticide-treated seeds are applied by aircraft, the 1/4 mile restriction would apply
- q. Questions/Comments
- i. Do you know why environmental groups sued DPR?
  - ii. How do the changes to pesticide-treated seed requirements relate to use or organic or 25(b) products?

## **VIII. Discussion – Next Meeting Agenda**

- a. Next meeting discussion requests
  - i. Presentation by Dan Gudgel
    1. Drone use beyond sight
    2. Drone efficacy
  - ii. The regulations for PPE requirements for drone pilots
  - iii. SPM updates
  - iv. Updated presentation on submission requirements
    1. How many individuals renewed during this license period
  - v. Discussion on ensuring APCAC members send alternates if not able to attend meeting

1. Updating member list on website
  2. Emailing poll to members about alternates
- b. The next APCAC meeting will take place at DPR's Bradshaw Regional Office on March 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM.