

# DRAFT - Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) Scope of Work



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## Purpose and Authority

The Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC), established by Assembly Bill (AB) 652, is tasked with advising the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR; the department) on policies addressing environmental justice concerns in communities most impacted by pest management decisions. The EJAC shall convene for the first time on or before January 1, 2026.

1. The EJAC shall provide prioritized recommendations to the department on ways to integrate environmental justice considerations into department programs, policies, decision-making, and activities, and on how the department can improve its engagement with communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.
2. The EJAC shall develop prioritized recommendations within the department's authority as specified in statute. The prioritized recommendations shall be developed through a public process and take public feedback into consideration.

## Objectives

The EJAC will assist DPR in achieving the following objectives:

1. Integrate Environmental Justice: Provide prioritized recommendations to DPR on ways to integrate environmental justice considerations into DPR external facing programs, policies, decision making, and activities, and how the department can improve its engagement with communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.
2. Promote Equity in Decision-Making: Uplift diverse perspectives and community experiences to support equitable and just outcomes in pesticide regulation.
3. Strengthen Community Engagement: Enhance communication and collaboration between DPR, communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides, and other key stakeholders to build trust and transparency.
4. Identify Barriers and Solutions: Identify and document systemic challenges related to pesticide exposure where DPR may not be the sole authority and where issues may overlap with other agencies' jurisdiction and propose actionable steps to address those issues.

5. Review Progress and Accountability: Review DPR's progress in advancing environmental justice, through DPR's written and verbal updates, and make prioritized recommendations for improvement.

## Membership

1. Composition: The EJAC will be composed of 7-11 members appointed by DPR's Director. The Director shall appoint EJAC members from nominations received based on individual nominee qualifications, contributions, and alignment with criteria outlined in AB 652. The number of appointed EJAC members will be dependent on number of nominations received, diversity of perspectives, or other determining factors. At a minimum, the EJAC shall be composed of the following:
  - At least two (2) environmental justice leaders who represent rural communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.
  - At least one (1) environmental justice leader who represents urban communities with the most significant exposure to pesticides.
  - At least one (1) representative of Native American, tribal, or indigenous groups.
  - At least one (1) farmworker advocate.
  - Up to one person (1) with expertise in issues affecting socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers.
  - Up to one (1) agroecologist or biologist with an environmental justice background.
2. Nominations: DPR will conduct all public solicitations for applications/nominations for initial EJAC members and to fill any membership vacancies. Environmental justice organizations, community groups, or other organizations or entities implementing program work that seeks to achieve environmental justice as defined in Section 65040.12 of the Government Code may nominate an individual to the EJAC. The nomination process consists of:
  - Completing the application form, either by the nominator or nominee.
  - Submitting one or more letters of recommendation.

- (Optional) Providing additional relevant supporting materials, such as resumes, CV, awards, or other documentation.
3. Term and reappointment: The EJAC Charter, which governs the EJAC, will outline term limits and reappointments for EJAC members.

## EJAC Roles and Responsibilities

The committee will be expected to:

1. Develop a Charter: The EJAC, in consultation with DPR, shall adopt a charter that includes the governance structure of the EJAC, term limits, and application process for new EJAC members, and the process for identifying prioritized recommendations for submittal to DPR. The charter will be adopted by a majority vote of EJAC members and revised as necessary.
2. Advise DPR: The EJAC will review and provide prioritized recommendations on DPR's external facing policies, programs, decision-making, and activities and work collaboratively to propose actionable, community centered solutions to ensure environmental justice considerations are incorporated.
3. Engage with Communities: The EJAC will serve as a liaison between DPR and communities most impacted by pesticide use to communicate concerns and opportunities for engagement. EJAC members will share lived experiences and insights to inform decision-making and incorporate these into prioritized recommendations submitted to the department.
4. Develop Prioritized Recommendations: The EJAC is entrusted with providing thoughtful prioritized recommendations to DPR to improve external processes that impact environmental justice communities and support meaningful engagement with those most affected by pesticide exposure and pest management practices. The EJAC's prioritized recommendations will be developed through a public process that incorporates public feedback.

The EJAC's guidance should focus on advancing broad, external process improvements that promote equity and inclusivity in decision-making. To support this, the EJAC may receive updates on DPR activities for informational purposes

and updates focused on actionable topics for the EJAC's consideration. This structure ensures members stay informed on various DPR activities while focusing efforts where prioritized recommendations can be most effective.

5. Serve in an Advisory Role: The EJAC shall serve in an advisory capacity to DPR's Director but holds no inherent decision-making authority.
6. Submit Prioritized Recommendations to DPR: Prioritized recommendations shall be approved by a quorum and sent in writing via email to DPR's Director and the Deputy Director of Environmental Justice and Equity. Prioritized recommendations can be submitted through various written formats, including but not limited to formal reports, letters or memos, presentations, and fact sheets.
7. Participate Actively: The EJAC will meet two times per year and members are expected to attend all meetings and participate in sub committees as needed. Committee members should contribute to reports, presentations, or workshops related to the EJAC.

## DPR Roles and Responsibilities

DPR will:

1. Provide Onboarding: DPR will support EJAC members by providing onboarding materials to familiarize members with their new role, responsibilities, travel, and per diem assistance.
2. Provide Compensation: In accordance with Food and Agricultural Code section 11519, subdivision (f), EJAC members will receive \$500 per diem for each day's attendance at a noticed meeting of the EJAC. EJAC members will also receive reimbursement for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in connection with their official EJAC duties in addition to the per diem allowance as permissible by the [California Human Resource Department](#).
3. Facilitate Committee Operations and Meetings: DPR will provide staffing, a minimum of Spanish translation and interpretation, and additional language access support as needed. DPR will also offer logistical support to facilitate EJAC meetings and activities, ensuring that meetings and materials are accessible to

the public. This includes publishing EJAC meeting materials including agendas, minutes, and reports on the EJAC webpage on the DPR website. This EJAC webpage will be maintained by DPR and will also include meeting notices, updates, and progress reports.

4. Consider and Respond to Prioritized Recommendations: The Director will consider and review the EJAC's prioritized recommendations. DPR may adopt a recommendation, adapt a recommendation, or decide to not implement a recommendation at the current time based on DPR's available resources, feasibility, and alignment with its mission, strategic objectives, and current priorities. DPR will provide written responses to the prioritized recommendations through formats such as formal reports, letters, memos, presentations, or fact sheets. The Director will make the final decision on how DPR will incorporate prioritized recommendations.
5. Ensure Accountability: DPR shall post and document, as needed, on its internet website, any updates on its efforts to incorporate the prioritized recommendations and feedback from the EJAC.