

**Department of Pesticide Regulation  
Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)  
December 10, 2025, Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Attendance**

***Committee Member Attendees:***

*In Person:*

1. Erika Alfaro
2. Angel Garcia
3. Bianca Lopez
4. Emily Marquez

*Virtual:*

5. Horacio Amezquita
6. Martha Dina Argüello
7. Guadalupe “Lupe” Martinez
8. Sarait Martinez
9. Rocio Ortiz
10. Mechelle Perea Ryan
11. Tim Prado

***Committee Member(s) not in Attendance:***

None

***DPR Staff Attendees:***

- Karen Morrison, Director, DPR
- Leia Bailey, Chief Deputy Director, DPR
- Celia Pazos, Deputy Director, EJ and Equity, DPR
- Denia Troxell, Senior Environmental Scientist, DPR
- Ayca Revaz, Analyst II, DPR
- Jenalyn Guzman, Senior Environmental Scientist, DPR
- Alvaro Cairo, Analyst II, DPR
- Dr. Kimberly Steinmann, Integrated Pest Management Branch, DPR

***Consultant Support:***

- CSUS: Sam Magill, Senior Facilitator
- CSUS: Ariel Ambruster, Lead Facilitator

*These minutes provide a high-level summary of key topics and decisions rather than a verbatim transcript. To hear the full discussion in participants’ own words, please view*

*the meeting recording at Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) EJAC Website under the Meetings, Events, and Workshops filter. Links to the agenda, presentation, and recording for this meeting are included below:*

- [Meeting Agenda \(Updated\) - English pdf](#)
- [Meeting Agenda \(Updated\) - Spanish pdf](#)
- [12/10/2025 Presentation - English pdf](#)
- [12/10/2025 Presentation - Spanish pdf](#)
- [Meeting Recording – English](#)
- [Meeting Recording - Spanish](#)

### **Agenda Item #1: Housekeeping and Logistics [00:00]**

A quorum of EJAC members was reached at 3:05 PM and the meeting began. Facilitator, Sam McGill, made housekeeping announcements.

### **Agenda Item #2: Welcome and Introductions [08:28]**

#### ***Welcome from Karen Morrison, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)***

DPR Director Karen Morrison provided opening remarks. She expressed appreciation for EJAC member time reviewing materials and attending today and thanked the public for joining.

### **Agenda Review [15:40]**

DPR Deputy Director of EJ and Equity Celia Pazos gave an overview of the meeting agenda.

### **EJAC Member Introductions [19:45]**

EJAC members provided self-introductions including short biographies, priorities, and/or topics of interest.

### **Agenda Item #3: Roll Call [59:05]**

The facilitator conducted EJAC member roll call. All 11 EJAC members were present and zero were absent.

### **Agenda Item #4: Overview of Draft Committee Charter and Possible Adoption of Draft Charter [01:00:54]**

#### ***Review Draft Charter***

DPR Senior Environmental Scientist Denia Troxell provided background on the [EJAC Draft Charter](#) and gave a high-level review of its contents [See Slides 18-28 in the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) versions of the Meeting Presentation.]

#### ***Discussion of Draft Charter [01:12:30]***

EJAC members identified changes they would like to see in the Draft Charter.

### ***Public Comment on Items on the Agenda item #4 [01:54:53]***

Facilitator opened the public comment period and invited Zoom and in-person public comments on items on the agenda. Public comment was taken, and 2 members of the public provided comments.

### ***Continuation of Draft Charter agenda item for the next meeting [02:03:40]***

After a break, DPR staff and the facilitator proposed that EJAC postpone this agenda item to the next meeting to allow time for EJAC leadership and DPR staff to incorporate suggested changes into an updated version of the Draft Charter for EJAC review, discussion, public comment, and approval at that time.

All members present agreed to postpone the agenda item until the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item #5: EJAC Discussion on Selecting Chair/Co-Chair(s) and Election Process, Election of Chair/Co-Chair(s) [02:08:26]**

#### ***Discussion on the election of a chair or up to two co-chairs***

EJAC Members discussed the question of number of co-chairs. The three nominees Tim Prado, Bianca Lopez and Rocio Ortiz confirmed their willingness to work with two others.

### ***Public Comment on election of chair/co-chair(s) [02:16:00]***

Public comment was taken, and five members of the public provided comments.

### ***Motion to Elect EJAC Co-Chairs [02:22:05]***

**Motion:** Member Erika Alfaro moved to elect all three of the existing candidates, Bianca Lopez, Rocio Ortiz, and Tim Prado, as co-chairs.

**Second by:** Member Guadalupe Martinez.

**Motion carried:** December 10, 2025

#### **Aye:**

- Member Erika Alfaro
- Member Horacio Amezcuita
- Member Martha Dina Argüello
- Member Angel Garcia
- Member Bianca Lopez
- Member Emily Marquez
- Member Guadalupe Martinez
- Member Sarait Martinez
- Member Rocio Ortiz
- Member Tim Prado

**Nay:**

- Member Mechelle Perea-Ryan

**Absent:**

- None

**Abstain:**

- None

**Agenda Item #6: EJAC Discussion on Location of Next EJAC Meeting [02:26:23]**

***DPR staff presentation overview of pesticide use in California***

Kimberly Steinmann, Integrated Pest Management Branch, DPR presented an overview of pesticide use in California to help inform the EJAC decision on identifying a location for the next meeting, as one meeting per year needs to be held in an area of high pesticide use. The presentation was requested by an EJAC member and provided information on Pesticide Use Reports (PUR), which report information on county-level pesticide use that is legally required to be reported to the State. See Slides 36-46 in the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) presentation for further information.

Kimberly Steinman answered questions from the committee.

***Discussion of locations for the next EJAC meeting [02:42:57]***

EJAC Members discussed considerations for selecting the next two meeting locations.

**Agenda Item #7: Public Comment [03:11:20]**

Facilitator Sam Magill opened the public comment period for comments on Agenda Item #6 as well as general public comment and invited Zoom webinar and in-person public comments. Public comment was made; 18 members of the public provided comment.

Co-Chair Bianca Lopez discussed the interpretation set-up and asked that interpreters do simultaneous interpretation rather than consecutive interpretation for public comments provided in Spanish.

**Agenda Item #8: Next Steps and Closing Remarks [03:58:08]**

DPR Deputy Director of EJ and Equity, Celia Pazos provided an overview of next steps: DPR staff will work with EJAC Co-Chairs to Incorporate EJAC recommendations into an updated Draft Charter for consideration at the next meeting, and to identify the location, timing, agenda and logistics of the next EJAC meeting. DPR staff will also ensure that any written public comments received to the EJAC email address are distributed to EJAC members.

EJAC Co-Chairs Bianca Lopez and Tim Prado provided final remarks with key points of interests:

- **Strengthen Protections**
  - Expand buffer zones around sensitive areas.
  - Promote regenerative and organic agriculture practices.
- **Transparency on Spray Days**
  - Provide accurate, real-time information on pesticide applications, including exact locations.
- **Data and Trends**
  - Track and report trends in sustainable pest management.
  - Highlight chemicals posing significant risks to communities.
- **Enforcement and Accountability**
  - Improve cross-agency coordination for enforcement.
  - Ensure accountability at both state and local levels.
  - Address complaints effectively.
- **Industrial Chemical Use**
  - Monitor and regulate high-risk chemicals (e.g., methyl bromide).
- **Toxicity and Risk Assessment**
  - Categorize chemicals based on toxicity.
  - Consider cumulative impacts, especially under extreme conditions like heat.
- **Community Health and Monitoring**
  - Expand air monitoring programs.
  - Enhance health protections for impacted communities.

Facilitator Sam Magill adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.