

# Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) Advisory Committee

## Charter

### Purpose and Overview of Charter

This Charter provides the purpose of the limited term (three-year) Sustainable Pest Management Advisory Committee (SPM Committee) and an overview of the scope and authority and composition of the committee and meeting structure.

The mission of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is to protect people and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides. The SPM Committee will advance DPR's mission to foster SPM and support the implementation of key strategic goals outlined in the Department's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan.

The formation of the SPM Advisory Committee was a recommendation included in the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap for California, which was developed and released by a cross-sector workgroup in January 2023 to provide recommendations to the state for a systemwide transition to more sustainable pest management. The SPM Roadmap identified as a key outcome of its recommendations to make SPM the de facto approach to pest management in California.

The Roadmap defined SPM as “a holistic, whole system approach applicable to agricultural and other managed ecosystems and urban and rural communities that builds on the concept of integrated pest management to include the wider context of the three sustainability pillars: human health and social equity; environmental protection; and, economic vitality.” The Roadmap's definition of SPM was incorporated into Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 11401.7 in July 2024.

The SPM Committee shall focus overall discussion on barriers and opportunities for SPM adoption across California and inform DPR's work to foster pest management approaches in California that promote human health and safety, ecosystem resilience, agricultural sustainability, community wellbeing, and economic vitality.

### Scope and Authority of SPM Committee

The aim of the SPM Committee is to advise DPR on goals, tactics, policies, and partnerships that support the implementation of SPM statewide. The SPM Committee does not hold decision-making authority. Committee members will publicly discuss opportunities and barriers for SPM adoption across California and identify opportunities for education, engagement, partnerships, and collaboration. The SPM Committee will also track and discuss statewide progress towards the implementation of SPM systemwide.

The SPM Committee will convene for a three-year period to provide an avenue for public discussion and input to inform DPR's work associated with the following objectives:

- Development of SPM metrics to track progress and implementation of SPM statewide
- Development of goals and criteria for DPR-funded SPM pilot projects
- Identification and championing of procurement and supply chain opportunities
- Development of criteria, outlines, or other information to support the development of SPM plan templates

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- Review of urban pesticide use data and identification of opportunities for SPM progress in urban landscapes
- Identification and implementation of SPM Continuing Education (CE) opportunities
- Promotion, development, and adoption of innovative pest management alternatives

Additionally, the SPM Committee may discuss:

- Practical implementation of the recommendations identified in the [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#)
- Feedback from impacted and interested stakeholders

Committee activities include, but are not limited to, identifying, facilitating, and promoting opportunities for SPM practices and partnerships statewide; analyzing issues and barriers; reviewing and compiling information; and providing recommendations to DPR on SPM opportunities and strategies.

Discussion on the development, adoption, and effectiveness of alternatives and areas of recommended focus for alternatives research or testing will be informed by but not duplicative of discussions occurring at DPR's Scientific Prioritization and Review Committee (SPARC) and Department priorities for pesticides in [Continuing Evaluation and Mitigation processes](#).

### Composition of the Committee

DPR's Deputy Director of SPM or their designee shall serve as Chair of the SPM Committee. Members will serve in an advisory capacity to inform DPR work but will not have decision or directional authority to guide resource allocations in DPR. Members will also be expected to work professionally, review materials in advance of meetings, and participate actively. Additionally, while membership in this Committee is voluntary, members will be requested to serve on the Committee for three years and will be expected to join all meetings to ensure continuity of discussions.

Committee membership will collectively include, but not be limited to, 12-15 individuals with expertise and representation in one or more of the following areas:

- **Agricultural IPM:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include licensed Pest Control Adviser (PCA), Certified Crop Advisor, conventional agricultural grower, organic grower, crop pest and disease manager, crop consultant, agricultural economist, agronomist, or similar.
- **Urban IPM:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include licensed PCA, Structural Pest Control Board licensee, urban entomologist, facilities Integrated Pest Manager, urban pest management consultant, or similar.
- **Natural Space IPM:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include licensed PCA, conservation or wildlife biologist, forest entomologist, plant pathologist, forest/rangeland manager/consultant, or similar.
- **Pesticide Alternatives:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include academic or industry scientist or consultant who works on pest control research and product development and testing, or similar.

- **Consumer Food Certifications:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include certification program manager, industry specialist, large buyer, consultant, or similar.
- **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Metrics:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include CSR or sustainability manager, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) analyst, compliance/ethics officer, consultant, or similar.
- **Procurement, Retail, and Food Supply Chains:** Examples of appropriate expertise in this category include agricultural procurement specialist, agricultural supply chain analyst/coordinator/manager, sustainable sourcing manager, crop advisor, agronomist, logistics manager, or similar.
- **Environmental Science:** Examples of appropriate areas of expertise in this category include entomologist, ecologist, wildlife or conservation biologist, soil scientist, microbiologist, weed scientist, nematologist, plant pathologist, or similar.
- **Public Health:** Examples of appropriate areas of expertise in this category include medical doctor, food safety/nutrition expert, epidemiologist, farmworker health and safety expert, public health clinician, or similar.
- **Community Advocacy:** Examples of appropriate areas of expertise in this category include community organizer, environmental justice advocate, community liaison/coordinator, or similar.

DPR will have at least two seats on the SPM Committee for state entities with SPM roles such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) or UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR).

The baseline expertise required for committee membership will include:

- Technical and practical experience pertaining to the implementation of sustainability policies
- Technical and practical experience pertaining to the implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) policies
- Practical or research experience pertaining to effective alternatives to conventional pesticides
- The possession of a strong commitment to scaling up SPM and problem-solving skills for working through SPM-related challenges, and
- The demonstrated ability to work constructively and effectively on multi-stakeholder committees

DPR will strive to create a diverse and inclusive committee and will select members based on factors such as geographic representation, business sectors (such as non-profit or private), length of time with IPM experience, and diverse life experiences. Committee members will be appointed by DPR's Director.

### Meeting Structure

Between 2026 and 2028, the SPM Committee will meet quarterly (12 meetings total). All meetings will be held virtually.

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Agendas will be set by the Chair of the Committee to reflect the scope and objectives of the SPM Committee as outlined in this Charter. Meetings will consist of topic-oriented presentations from DPR or invited experts, followed by DPR-facilitated discussion and Q&A with committee members. Agendas and supporting materials will be posted on DPR's website in advance of meetings. Meeting minutes will also be posted on DPR's website following SPM Committee meetings.

Committee meetings will be webcast and include an opportunity for the public to join a queue virtually to provide comment or feedback to SPM Committee on topics of discussion and as appropriate for agenda topics.

All meetings will include a 15-day public comment period following the meeting. All comments received will be included in meeting minutes posted on DPR's website and reviewed by the SPM Committee.

The SPM Advisory Committee will meet for 3 years between 2026-2028. At the end of 2028, the Director and SPM Deputy Director will review the scope and need to continue the Committee.