

Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

June 10, 2026
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Members Present (7): Stephen Scheer – California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association, **Rick Miller** – Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders, **Jhalendra Rijal** – University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, **Jill LeVake** – Pesticide Registrants, **Ronald Berg** – Pesticide Dealers, **Matt Scally** – Pest Control Maintenance Gardeners, **Dan Gudgel** – Pest Control Aircraft Pilots

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) (7): Joshua Ogawa – Branch Chief, ENF HQ Branch, **Alicia Scott** – Environmental Program Manager I, **Jessica Teague** – Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), **Ashley De La Torre** – Environmental Scientist, **Joan Orr** – Office Technician, **Nathan Desjarlais** – Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), **Ken King** – Analyst II

Guest (3): David Ito – Grow West, **Ruthann Anderson** – California Association of Pest Control Advisers, **Sam Samens** – Pest Control Aircraft Pilot

Members Absent (5): 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, **Margaret Ellis** – Board of Trustees of the California State University System

I. Welcome – Alicia Scott, DPR Licensing and Certification

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

- a. Member and audience introductions
- b. Updates provided by Jill for APCAC members
 - i. Efforts are underway to fill the remaining vacancies on the committee

- c. If there are any comments to the March meeting notes, please let us know. If there are no corrections and/or comments, they will be posted to the website
- d. Reminder, please designate an alternate if you are unable to attend next meeting

III. DPR Updates – Joshua Ogawa, DPR Enforcement Headquarters

- a. Regulatory updates effective July 1st
- b. Review of the final regulations for Title 3 California Code of Regulations, Division 6 Pesticides and Pest Control Operations, Chapter 3 Pest Control Operations, Subchapter 2 Work Requirements, Article 1 Pest Control Operations Generally
 - i. Amend the following sections:
 - 1. Section 6622: Operator Identification Numbers
 - 2. Section 6624: Pesticide Use Records
- c. Chapter 4 Environmental Protection, Subchapter 1 Groundwater, Article 1 Pesticide Contamination Prevention
 - i. Amend section 6800: Groundwater Protection List
 - ii. Repeal section 6804: Specific Numerical Values
 - iii. Adopt section 6805: Multivariate Leaching Value and Threshold
- d. Title 3 California Code Of Regulations, Division 6 Pesticides and Pest Control Operations, Chapter 3 Pest Control Operations, Subchapter 3 Pesticide Worker Safety, Article 2 General Safety Requirements
 - i. Amend section 6738.1: Personal Protective Equipment Use
- e. Treated seed – Currently in the public comment period and a hearing has been requested
- f. Rulemaking calendar – monitor upcoming communications for future updates on progress and timelines
- g. Website report – Food and Agricultural Code amendment regarding restrictive agricultural permit appeals
 - i. Appeals will be submitted to county agricultural commissioner's rather than to DPR

IV. DPR Licensing and Certification Renewal Updates – Ken King, Licensing and Certification Program

a. New licenses

- i. Since March 1, 2026, 487 new licenses and certificates have been issued
 - 1. QAL – 237
 - 2. QAC – 141
 - 3. DDA – 23
 - 4. PCA – 36
 - 5. APC – 34
 - 6. JPC -10
 - 7. VCT – 6

b. Top 6 Renewal Application Issues

- i. Renewals 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

c. CE Outside Valid Period

- i. All CE must be earned during the valid license period
- ii. The valid license period is from when a license is issued/renewed until it expires

d. Tools to Help you Track CE Hours

- i. CE hours submitted to DPR by CE sponsors are included on the list of License and Certificate Holders on our website

e. 3 CE Summary Options for 2026 Renewal

- i. If the valid license list shows the full requirement is completed, you do not need to completely fill out the CE Summary form (LIC-141, page 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 application.

- ii. If the valid license list shows less than the full requirement is completed, you may contact us (LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov) to request a detailed report of CE reported to DPR. Any approved courses you attended that are missing from your report must be added to the CE Summary form (LIC-141, page 2) to self-report that you meet the CE hours required to renew. Submit this form with your renewal application.
- iii. Completely fill out the CE Summary form (LIC-141, page 2) to self-report the hours you completed. Submit this form with your renewal application.

f. Online Licensing Update

- i. Request for Information (RFI) completed May 14, 2026
- ii. Received proposals from 11 vendors that provided positive feedback that our online Licensing project is possible and our system needs are obtainable
- iii. Next steps: Drafting Request for Proposal (RFP) to be posted early 2027. This step will allow for a vendor to apply to be hired by DPR to begin building the online system

g. Sign Up for Our Email Subscription List

- i. Sign up for GovDelivery's
 - 1. Information and updates are regularly sent out through GovDelivery's

h. Questions?

- i. Questions regarding licensing and renewals can be directed to LicenseMail@cdpr.ca.gov

V. The Endangered Species Act and EPA's Ecological Mitigation Measures – Beth Boss, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), ENF Headquarters

a. ESA History and Background

b. ESA Protections under FIFRA

- i. U.S. EPA regulates and registers pesticides for use under FIFRA
- ii. As part of the registration process, EPA must assess a product's impact on the environment

- iii. In 1988, U.S. EPA established the Endangered Species Protection Program (ESPP) to meet ESA obligations

c. ESA Workload Challenges

- i. EPA has met its ESA obligations for less than 5% of all pesticide registrations and uses
- ii. This has resulted in over 20 lawsuits (covering over 1,000 products) against the EPA
- iii. In 2021, EPA began developing a comprehensive, long-term approach to meeting ESA obligations

d. ESA Workplan

- i. Included approaches to further ESA:
 - 1. Strategies for identifying and implementing early ESA mitigation across groups of chemicals (e.g., herbicides, rodenticides, insecticides)
 - 2. Bridging of mitigation measures from one chemical (representative) to a similar one or from one vulnerable species to other vulnerable species
 - 3. Regional-specific strategies (e.g., specific measures for use of a pesticide in Hawaii)
 - 4. Approaches for specific pesticide uses (e.g., adult mosquitocide)
 - 5. Programmatic approaches to ESA consultation
 - 6. Offsets (also known as compensatory mitigation)

e. Herbicide, Insecticide, and Fungicide Strategies

- i. Herbicide Strategy finalized in August 2024
- ii. Insecticide Strategy finalized in April 2025
- iii. Fungicide Strategy – Draft released April 30, 2026, to be finalized by Nov 2026
 - 1. Cover use in the lower 48 states
 - 2. Adds label requirements for users to check BLT
 - 3. Includes label requirements to consult a Mitigation Menu webpage to implement ecological mitigation measures

f. Under the Herbicide, Insecticide, and Fungicide Strategies

- i. Labels may:

1. Require mitigation measures irrespective of where the pesticide is applied
 2. Direct a user to access the BLT website for geographically-specific mitigations (PULAs) through Bulletins
 3. Require a specific level of mitigation and direct the user to a mitigation menu website
- g. Framework for Strategies
- i. Determine potential population impacts to listed species (not likely, low, medium, high)
 - ii. Identify if drift, runoff, or erosion mitigation is needed
 - iii. Identify where in the U.S. mitigation measures apply
- h. Bulletins Live! Two (BLT)
- i. When Does EPA Create Bulletins?
 1. If geographically explicit label instructions are needed, then EPA may create Bulletins as part of its regulatory actions
 2. Goal of Bulletins is to protect listed species and/or their critical habitat in specific locations
 3. EPA plans to create additional Bulletins as it completes registration actions and ESA consultations
 - i. What do Bulletins Contain?
 - i. Location of use limitations
 - ii. Products with limitations
 - iii. Terms of the limitation
 1. Limitations can involve buffers, reduced application rates, timing restrictions, hyperlinks to other restrictions, or outright prohibitions on use
 - iv. No identification of species
 - j. Are Bulletins Enforceable?
 - i. When directed by a product label, pesticide applicators are required to visit the BLT website
 - ii. When a product label direct users to check BLT, Bulletins are enforceable as part of the product's "labeling"

- iii. Not following the limitation on the Bulletin is a “use in conflict” and enforceable under FAC section 12973
- iv. If this misuse results in “take” of a federally-listed species, the action is also enforceable under the Endangered Species Act by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marines Fisheries Service

k. Ecological Mitigation

- i. EPA’s Herbicide, Insecticide, and Fungicide Strategies aim to reduce three key risks to endangered species: spray drift, runoff, and soil erosion. These ecological mitigation requirements are not yet on California-registered pesticide labels, but they will be in the future. The measures may change as new data emerge, so it is important for pesticide users to understand the current mitigation menu and how to apply it.

l. ESA Spray Drift Mitigation Program

- i. To reduce spray drift, EPA may require a wind-directional buffer zone whose size increases with the potential risk to endangered species. Because the buffer depends on wind direction, applicators can meet the requirement by applying pesticides only when the wind is blowing away from sensitive areas.

m. Identify Ecological Spray Drift Buffers on the Label/BLT

- i. Does the label or Bulletin specify an ecological spray drift buffer?
 - 1. Find the distances either on the label and or Bulletin
 - 2. Whichever instructions are the most restrictive must be followed
- ii. If required, downwind buffer distances may vary by product

n. Select Additional Mitigation Measures

- i. U.S. EPA gives applicators credit for:
 - 1. Modifying application parameters:
 - 2. Using larger droplets
 - 3. Reduced boom length
 - 4. Reducing the application rate
 - 5. Treating fewer acres
 - 6. Having downwind drift barriers or habitat
 - 7. Relative humidity

- o. Surface Water Protection: Runoff and Erosion Mitigations
 - i. How Are Points Calculated?
 - ii. EPA identified the level of mitigation needed to reduce exposures so that population-level impacts, associated with runoff/erosion, are no longer likely.
 - 1. Low impact – up to 3 points of mitigation
 - 2. Medium impact – up to 6 points of mitigation
 - 3. High impact – up to 9 points of mitigation
 - iii. In general, a mitigation with a low, medium, or high efficacy achieves an average of 10-30%, 30-60%, and greater than or equal to 60% reduction of offsite transport via runoff/erosion.
 - 1. Low efficacy – 1 point
 - 2. Medium efficacy – 2 points
 - 3. High efficacy -3 points
- p. Types of Runoff/Erosion Mitigations:
 - i. Application parameters
 - ii. Field characteristics
 - iii. In-field mitigation measures
 - iv. Adjacent to the field mitigation measures
 - v. Systems that capture runoff and discharge
 - vi. Other mitigation measures
- q. PALM: Runoff/Erosion Calculator

Pesticide App for Label Mitigations

EPA released the Pesticide App for Label Mitigations (PALM), a mobile-friendly tool to serve as a one-stop shop that helps farmers and applicators use EPA's [mitigation menu](#) to reduce pesticide exposure to nontarget species from agricultural crop uses. PALM combines the functionality of the [spray drift and runoff calculators](#) in a mobile-friendly and easy-to-use web interface. This application also provides a useful summary to show how users calculated their runoff and erosion mitigation points or ecological spray drift buffer reductions and what field characteristics or application parameters are applicable to their individual applications.

These calculators are tools for informational purposes to assist pesticide users in determining whether the necessary level of mitigation has been met before applying a pesticide product. Pesticide users remain responsible for ensuring that all pesticide labeling requirements are met. Not all labels permit use of runoff/erosion mitigation measures or spray drift reduction.

This tool will not retain any of the information entered here.

[Contact Us](#) to ask about questions related to PALM.

Runoff/Erosion calculator

Spray drift calculator

i.

- r. Additional Compliance Resources
 - i. New “How to Comply” Flyer
 - ii. “Adapting to the ESA” Video Series
 - 1. Mitigation Overview (5 minutes)
 - 2. Bulletins Live! Two (7 minutes)
 - 3. Spray drift (9 minutes)
 - 4. ESA Runoff (7 minutes)
- s. Looking Ahead
 - i. Spray drift and runoff/erosion mitigations will start being added to labels
 - ii. Mitigation measures are subject to updates
 - iii. Enforcement challenges
 - iv. Potential Rulemaking

VI. Discussion – Next Meeting Agenda

- a. Next meeting will be September 9, 2026
- b. Potential topic agenda items:
 - i. A discussion on Section 6800 groundwater topics from Josh’s update, along with updates on pyrethroid surface-water issues
 - ii. Update on pesticide-treated seed rulemaking
 - iii. Follow-up on March SPM presentation, including any committee-related updates
 - iv. Reminder if you can’t attend next meeting to send alternates if available
 - v. If there are any topic ideas you would like discussed for next meeting, please email any suggestions to Alicia.Scott@cdpr.ca.gov