California Department of Pesticide Regulation

AB 2113 - Food & Agricultural Code Section 12824.5(d) Report to Legislature

July 2026

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Executive Summary

The mission of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is to protect human health and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides. DPR scientists review the safety of pesticides before they can be sold in the state and continue to evaluate them after they are approved. This continuous evaluation uses new data and the best available science to ensure pesticide use remains protective of people and the environment.

One key tool to identify and address pesticide risks is DPR's reevaluation process. Pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 12824.5(d), this report identifies actions to improve the efficiency of DPR's internal processes for reevaluating pesticides.

Consistent with AB 2113 (Garcia, Chapter 60, Statutes of 2024) and DPR's mission, the department prioritizes process improvements that enhance efficiency and transparency. When potential pesticide risks are identified, DPR aims to act quickly to understand those risks and take appropriate steps to address them. This report outlines DPR's reevaluation program, highlights improvements already underway to meet AB 2113 requirements, and discusses future challenges that may affect DPR's work to protect human health and the environment.

Overview of DPR Reevaluation Process

Reevaluation (Section 6220 et seq. of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (3 CCR)) is a formal, science-driven process to assess pesticide risks and mitigate risks when necessary. It includes five general steps:

- **Identify** a problem and initiate the reevaluation
- **Collect** needed data
- **Evaluate** that data to determine risk
- **Develop** strategies to reduce risk
- **Implement** mitigation measures

A key strength of the reevaluation process is DPR's authority to require new scientific studies when data gaps are identified. Consistent with FAC section 12824.5, DPR aims to complete new reevaluations within five years of their start. The sections below describe each of the five steps, with examples and typical timelines.

Step 1: Problem identification and reevaluation initiation

Under current regulation, DPR must investigate cases where pesticides may have caused harm. Investigations draw on multiple data sources—pesticide use reports, environmental monitoring, reported

illnesses, contracted studies, and peer-reviewed literature. If this evaluation shows that a significant adverse impact has occurred or is likely to occur, DPR begins a reevaluation for that pesticide. Most reevaluations identify data gaps and require new information. When no new data is needed, faster tools are available to address risks.

Starting a reevaluation requires issuing a public notice, defining the scope of the problem, conducting a 30-day public comment period, and consulting with other relevant state agencies.

The initial investigation and data collection phase can take several months to several years, depending on several factors. For example, in the 2026 initiation of the Total Release Foggers reevaluation, DPR analyzed multiple years of illness data related to "bug bombs," identifying a longer-term trend in reported illnesses related to the general public's use of these products. By contrast, DPR initiated a reevaluation of the herbicide Paraquat following a three-year investigation of submitted concerns of impacts to human health and the environment.

Once DPR confirms that a significant adverse impact has occurred or is likely, the department will formally initiate reevaluation.

TIMELINE FOR PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION: Months to years, depending on the complexity of the investigation.
TIMELINE FOR INITIATION: Approx. 1 month

Step 2: Data collection

During a scientific investigation or reevaluation, DPR may identify data gaps that must be filled to fully understand the risks posed by a pesticide. When this occurs during reevaluation, registrants are required to generate the necessary data. Registrants must obtain DPR approval for study designs, protocols, and timelines. DPR scientists closely review and provide feedback on each stage of study development to ensure the data produced is scientifically sound, addresses the identified gaps, and meets required timelines.

The time needed to generate data varies significantly based on the complexity of the studies and whether new scientific methods are required. For example, during the reevaluation of copper antifouling paints, DPR required studies on copper leaching. Studies like this example involving short-term environmental impacts or well-established study methods can typically be completed in less than 12 months.

More complex needs—such as evaluating long-term (chronic) risks or developing entirely new study methodologies—may extend timelines considerably. For instance, DPR's 2009 reevaluation of agricultural neonicotinoid products to assess chronic risks to bees led to the development of a new, three-tiered risk assessment framework. This framework, created collaboratively with the U.S. EPA and Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency over three years, provided a consistent scientific approach across North

America for evaluating novel pollinator risk questions. After establishing the framework, registrants completed more than 50 studies across 20 crops to characterize risks and support mitigation. This scientific framework has since been incorporated into registration requirements for new products to ensure they are protective of pollinators.

TIMELINE FOR DATA COLLECTION: Highly variable (months to years) depending on the nature and complexity of data gaps.

Step 3: Data evaluation to determine risk

Once the required data is generated, DPR incorporates the results into a broader evaluation of the risks associated with the pesticide under reevaluation. This evaluation, often known as a risk assessment, establishes science-based risk thresholds and compares them to how the pesticide is currently used.

Historically, DPR's risk assessments have focused on a single active ingredient and evaluated all registered uses and possible exposure pathways. These comprehensive reviews, which can include hundreds of relevant studies, can take several years to complete. Given the new timelines prescribed in statute, DPR is working to narrow the scope of evaluations to support faster completion (additional detail provided below). A recent example is the completion of human health risk assessments of non-agriculture uses of the neonicotinoids acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, and thiamethoxam, which were completed in two years.

TIMELINE FOR RISK DETERMINATION: Highly variable (recent examples are 2-3 years).

Step 4: Development of strategies to mitigate risk

DPR reviews scientific data to decide whether a pesticide poses a risk that needs to be addressed. If DPR finds that extra protections are needed, the process moves into the "mitigation" phase. Early identification of effective mitigation can occur while the data evaluation is still in progress. Mitigation can involve several actions, such as making the pesticide a restricted material, adding new restrictions on how it can be used, or taking other steps to reduce risk.

The mitigation development process is often subject to public comment and consultation with many local, state, and federal agencies because pesticide impacts often overlap with other environmental and policy

areas. These consultations add time but also provide important information that helps make the final measures effective and enforceable.

As an example, DPR is reevaluating rodenticides and working with interested parties, including through a public workshop and informal comment period, to refine mitigation strategies. Early feedback has highlighted technology solutions that may support mitigation to reduce risks. Developing workable strategies ahead of formal rulemaking supports the identification of effective, enforceable requirements and streamlines the rulemaking process to implement mitigation.

TIMELINE FOR DEVELOPING MITIGATION MEASURES: Varies from a few months to several years, depending on the type of risk, scoping needed to identify mitigation options, and the number of required consultations with partner agencies.

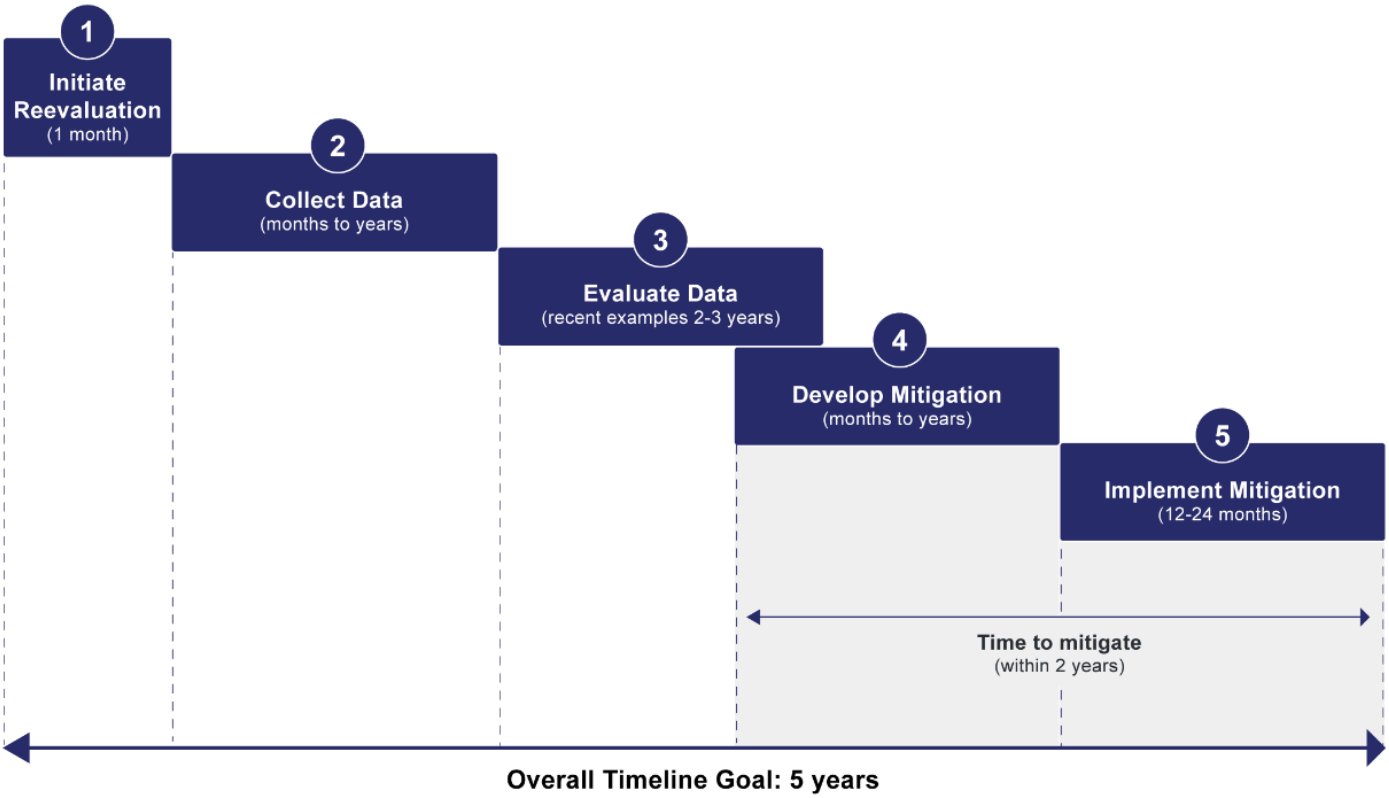
Step 5: Implementation of mitigation measures

Reevaluation officially ends when needed mitigation measures are put in place by adopting new regulations, accepting label changes, or issuing restricted material permit conditions. These actions include additional requirements. For example, the department must consult with other state agencies and follow the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) to adopt new regulations. Both the rulemaking process and other mitigation processes require DPR to gather, review, and respond to technical comments and public feedback. While individual rulemakings can vary in length, the APA limits the process to 12 months. Most agencies require the full 12 months to complete their rulemaking. Agencies often need additional time to develop rulemaking materials before initiating the formal rulemaking process and OAL may take additional time outside of the 12 months to review and approve the rule.

DPR can also use other tools to address risk, such as creating best management practices or working with registrants and U.S. EPA on pesticide label changes. For example, after DPR found that the insecticide fipronil was frequently showing up in surface water at levels harmful to sensitive aquatic organisms, the Department worked with product registrants to explore ways to reduce runoff, such as limiting applications during the rainy season. DPR and the registrants agreed to new California-specific label restrictions for products used outdoors in cities. The registrants then worked with U.S. EPA to approve these state-specific labels. In this case, DPR worked through steps 3, 4, and 5 within three years. These mitigation measures were adopted in 2017 without needing to go through the full reevaluation process.

TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING MITIGATION MEASURES: About 1–2 years, depending on approach

Figure 1: *Five steps of reevaluation and projected timelines. This figure also highlights the timelines prescribed in FAC section 12824.5 relative to reevaluation and mitigation*



Collectively, the reevaluation process provides a rigorous, science-based approach to identify, evaluate, and mitigate risk. As described below, DPR is working to reduce timelines to complete the reevaluation process in five years and mitigate risks within two years, consistent with statute.

Improvements to DPR's Reevaluation Program

Following the additional funding provided in the Budget Act of 2024 and passage of AB 2113, DPR is taking steps to improve the reevaluation process. Key improvements include:

1. Increased staffing and capacity

Historically, DPR has been understaffed. The Budget Act of 2024 provided additional positions to DPR to address major gaps in capacity. Since then, DPR has been hiring new staff and improving internal efficiencies to more effectively evaluate and mitigate pesticide risks. The new positions are phased in over three years, with the final set available to hire beginning July 1, 2026. Most early-phase positions have already been

filled, and DPR continues to hire and train new staff to ensure the department has the expertise and capacity it needs to carry out its work and strengthen its evaluation and mitigation programs.

2. Greater transparency and accountability

As required by AB 2113, DPR now posts a public summary of all ongoing evaluation and mitigation work, including milestones and timelines for reevaluations. Updated twice a year, this table explains progress, delays, and the reasons for any timeline changes. DPR has consistently met deadlines included on this summary since the first posting in July 2025. This has increased public visibility into DPR's work, the risks identified, and the mitigations being developed.

3. Active progress on historic work

With more staff capacity, DPR is advancing mitigation actions, reevaluations, and risk assessments that have been delayed by historic understaffing. As of June 2026, DPR has 7 reevaluations, 2 risk assessments, and 10 mitigation efforts in progress.

4. Choosing the right scope of work

DPR is improving efficiency by carefully narrowing the scope of reevaluations. Instead of reviewing all possible risks for a pesticide, DPR focuses on the specific toxicity or exposure pathways that need attention. This is an active area of improvement for DPR to streamline work and timeliness in its data evaluation processes. The department also uses relevant federal work when appropriate and identifies where California-specific conditions must be considered. This focused approach has already reduced timelines and increased consistency across reevaluations and risk assessments.

5. Establishing the Scientific Prioritization and Review Committee (SPARC)

In 2026, DPR created SPARC, a scientific advisory committee that provides recommendations on how the Department should prioritize evaluation and mitigation actions. DPR set up a process for interested parties to submit potential priorities, and SPARC meetings serve as a public forum to discuss these suggestions. SPARC will recommend up to four priorities each year, and its recommendations will guide new actions and adjustments to current efforts. These decisions will be reflected in DPR's public summary of all ongoing evaluation and mitigation work.

6. Continuous process improvements

DPR continues to make internal changes to increase efficiency and reduce timelines. These improvements include:

- Strengthening coordination across teams, expanding cross-training, and removing duplicative steps.
- Expanding data collection and modeling to deepen understanding of pesticide impacts.
- Proactive planning and training for staff to address emerging risks.

Challenges on the Horizon

DPR is committed to meeting the goals of AB 2113 and improving its programs to complete work more quickly and effectively. As the number of reevaluations increases in the coming years, DPR may face challenges in balancing timelines with legal and scientific requirements. Key challenges include:

Reevaluation may not always be the most effective pathway for mitigation

AB 2113 sets specific expectations for how quickly reevaluations should start and finish. However, reevaluation is only one tool to address pesticide risks. DPR's continuous evaluation and mitigation program can allow DPR to skip certain steps associated with reevaluation to more quickly complete risk assessments and mitigation, consistent with AB 2113, while maintaining scientific integrity. In some cases, DPR may proceed with initiating a reevaluation to meet the quota in statute. However, an alternative pathway to identify mitigation and move more quickly to mitigation, such as a risk assessment outside of a reevaluation, could be the best path for DPR to meet the goals of AB 2113.

Statutory timelines may limit DPR's ability to conduct certain scientific evaluations

AB 2113 aims for DPR to complete reevaluations within five years. DPR's efforts to improve scoping and efficiency will help meet this goal. However, assessing long-term risks—such as chronic health effects, cancer risks, or impacts on the environment—often requires studies that take many years to complete. DPR must balance the five-year goal with the time needed to gather high-quality data to protect public health and the environment.

DPR also continues to develop new scientific approaches as research evolves. For example, DPR works with national and international partners to refine methods, explore new questions, and design new study types. California is often a leader in developing scientific tools that are later used by federal and global regulatory agencies.

DPR will communicate which reevaluations require long-term studies or new science, so the public understands the timelines involved.

Required interagency consultations may limit other external engagement under statutory timelines

DPR must follow many statutory requirements for coordination with other agencies, peer review, and public engagement. These processes provide important opportunities for discussion and feedback from the public, impacted communities, scientists, and regulated communities. In addition, this coordination supports requirements from the Office of Administrative Law and the Administrative Procedure Act. This is reflected in Step 5 of reevaluation, described above.

Because these actions take time, DPR has limited flexibility to complete consultations and regulatory development within two years while still ensuring meaningful engagement. Early and informed discussions with impacted communities are essential to creating clear, enforceable rules that protect all Californians.

DPR's goal is to have clear communication with the public and interested parties to support broader understanding of the process of creating effective, enforceable regulations. DPR also seeks to meaningfully incorporate public and scientific input into mitigation actions while moving forward as quickly as possible.

Next Steps

As of this report, DPR is on track for the current reevaluations underway. DPR is phasing in new positions and increasing efficiencies with statutory timelines in mind. DPR will continue to assess where additional capacity, including bringing new expertise into the department, or other changes may help improve the reevaluation process while preserving scientific rigor and the urgency needed to respond to emerging risks.

DPR will continue to work closely with interested parties, impacted communities, and the Legislature to shape future improvements to its policies, programs, and timelines. These conversations will help ensure the state's pest management framework keeps pace with evolving science, supports strong public health and environmental protections, and remains responsive to the needs of the public.