

# CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee

## September 2024: California Department of Pesticide Regulation Report

### Consultations, Outreach, Engagement

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is committed to working with California Native American Tribes, both federally recognized and non-federally recognized, through consultation when developing regulations, rules, and policies that affect tribal land, cultural, and natural resources.

Environmental monitoring of resources on or impacting tribal land, research authorizations for pesticide applications that could impact tribal land, implementation of the Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) roadmap, and enforcement actions involving pesticide applications on or impacting tribal land conducted under contract by pest control operators are examples of areas for consultation.

#### Consultations for Q3

- None

#### Tribal Engagements in Q3

- In August 2024, the Quechan Indian Tribe's Pest Control Officer reached out to DPR for guidance regarding an incident where low flying aircraft applying pesticides for mosquito control was observed near tribal government buildings. DPR recommended the tribe's Pesticide Control Officer contact the Imperial County Agricultural Commissioner's office who is the primary contact for pesticide use enforcement.

### Updates and Action Items

#### Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)

Last year the legislature passed and the governor signed AB 652, requiring DPR to establish an environmental justice advisory committee (EJAC). Per statute, the EJAC shall include "at least 1 representative from Native American, Tribal, or indigenous tribal groups". DPR will be conducting tribal consultation and outreach to solicit nominations for the committee starting in Q4 of 2024. Per statute, the EJAC shall be convened by Jan 1, 2026.

#### Tribal Tours

DPR received discretionary funds from US EPA to support tribal engagement activities for fiscal year 2024/2025. DPR is planning to host two tribal meetings/tours that would include partnering with California Native American Tribes to visit tribal lands impacted by environmental hazards, including pesticide impacts and include meetings to hear the tribe's priorities and concerns. Funds should be expended by July 1, 2025.

## **Pesticide Notification System- "SprayDays California"**

DPR is developing a statewide notification system, called "SprayDays California", to provide the public with advance, transparent and equitable access to information about agricultural restricted material pesticide applications.

In response to comments received during the initial comment period that opened in November 2023, DPR issued a [Notice of Modifications to Text](#) proposing modifications to the originally proposed regulatory text. The proposed modifications include:

- Amending the evaluation and review of the system, which was initially proposed as occurring three years after launch, to require DPR to annually receive feedback from and provide a status update to the department's EJAC, the California Department of Food and Agriculture's State Board and the public until DPR issues a comprehensive report on the system three years after the regulation becomes effective.
- Clarifying the restricted material pesticides that are subject to the 24- and 48-hours reporting requirements.
- Clarifying that DPR will make publicly available pesticide product name(s) and active ingredient(s).
- Clarifying the effective date for the implementation of the system.

On July 2, 2024, DPR opened a 30-day public comment period on the proposed modifications that ended on August 1, 2024. DPR hosted two in-person public hearings, and one virtual public hearing to receive oral or written comments regarding the proposed modifications to the originally proposed text of the regulations.

DPR is reviewing comments received on the proposed modifications and is working to finalize the regulation to meet the goal of launching the statewide pesticide notification system in the first quarter of 2025. DPR's website includes updates and a video demonstration of the system in development: [Statewide Pesticide Application Notification System Updates](#).

## **Grant Opportunities**

DPR's grant solicitation for the 2025 IPM Research and Alliance Grants Programs is now open. This year, DPR is offering grant funding to support the state's goal to transition to

systemwide adoption of safer, more sustainable pest management, aligned with the [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#) objectives.

**The IPM Alliance Grants Program** funds projects that promote or increase the implementation, expansion, and/or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable integrated pest management (IPM) systems or practices that reduce human health and environmental risks in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings.

**The IPM Research Grants Program** funds projects that advance IPM knowledge in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings.

Applications will be accepted through September 19, 2024 for Research Grants and November 21, 2024 for Alliance Grants.

**Office Hours:** 30-minute appointments are available Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 – 11:30 AM PT for interested applicants to discuss non-competitively-ranked criteria in the proposal application. To sign up for an office hour appointment, please use the [2025 DPR Grants Program Office Hours Form](#).

Application information and materials are available at <https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/dprgrants.htm>. For questions, please contact [IPMgrants@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:IPMgrants@cdpr.ca.gov).

## Department Priorities

- The 2024-2025 State Budget includes stable, long-term and sustainable funding for DPR by increasing the mill fee from 21 mills (\$0.021) to 30 mills (\$0.030) over four years and increases in pesticide registration and licensing fees. This funding will support stable, long-term funding for the department and critical SPM-related programs. The funding will add ~117 new positions and \$34 million to support DPR's core functions and priorities. Key policy and budget bill elements:
  - Timely processing of pesticide product registration reviews and evaluations.
  - Expanding the number of reevaluations and mitigation measures initiated.
  - Expanding grant programs to fund larger proposals to develop alternatives and expand SPM adoption.
  - Strengthening pesticide use compliance and enforcement.
  - Improving transparent and equitable access to information through expanded community and stakeholder engagement.
- DPR released a draft, updated strategic plan in September 2023 with action oriented, measurable goals to guide department priorities over the next five years. The draft strategic plan includes an updated mission, vision, and goals, including a goal aimed at strengthening relationships and expanding government to government consultations, education, and outreach with

California Native American Tribes. The strategic plan is in final stages of administrative review.

- DPR is working to accelerate a statewide transition to sustainable pest management. The department, CalEPA and the California Department of Food and Agriculture released the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap in January 2023. Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) is a holistic, whole-system approach to managing pests in agricultural and other managed ecosystems and urban and rural communities that builds on the concepts of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with broader consideration of health, equity, environmental and economic challenges. IPM is a strategy that focuses on long-term pest prevention through biological controls, habitat manipulation and other approaches. The Sustainable Pest Management roadmap is on the DPR website and can be viewed here.

[https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/sustainable\\_pest\\_management\\_roadmap/](https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/sustainable_pest_management_roadmap/)