

CalEPA Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC)

California Department of Pesticide Regulation Report

December 2025

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 and meaningful engagement when developing regulations, rules, and policies that affect Tribal land and 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 Sustainable Pest Management (SPM), 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 Q2 and Q3

- None

Tribal Engagements in Q2 and Q3

- None

Resources and Opportunities

Opportunities

Sustainable Pest Management Advisory Committee

DPR is accepting nominations for a newly created Sustainable Pest Management Advisory Committee to inform California's transition to sustainable pest management (SPM). The SPM Advisory Committee will include up to 15 people with experience in environmental science, agricultural, urban and natural space Integrated Pest Management (IPM), pesticide alternatives, consumer food certification, corporate social responsibility, food supply chains, public health and community advocacy.

Nominations are open through Dec. 19, 2025. Full application instructions are available on the [SPM Advisory Committee webpage](#).

Scientific Advisory Committee on Pesticide Prioritization (SPARC)

DPR is accepting nominations, through December 1, 2025, for a new advisory committee that will provide scientific advice and additional public transparency to the department's efforts to protect people and the environment. The Scientific Prioritization and Review Committee (SPARC) will support

implementation of California's [Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap](#), which calls for a statewide transition to safer, more sustainable pest management practices. DPR is seeking nominations for up to 15 external members with expertise in specific fields. Members will be appointed by the DPR director and serve staggered terms.

For more information on SPARC, visit the committee's webpage: [Scientific Prioritization and Review Committee \(SPARC\) - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)

Department Updates

Data Reports

Annual DPR Sampling Report

In July, DPR released its annual produce monitoring report which found that about 97% of fruits and vegetables sold in California had either no detectable pesticide residues or had residues below federal health-protective limits. The results are based on 3,544 produce samples collected in 2023 by DPR staff from more than 500 locations statewide. The unpeeled, unwashed samples are tested for 500 types of pesticides and related compounds. Samples are considered illegal when detections exceed health-protective "tolerances" set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. See the report on our website: [2023 California Pesticide Residue Monitoring Program Report - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)

2023 Air Monitoring Network Report

In September, DPR released the annual Air Monitoring Network (AMN) Report for 2023. DPR operates four air monitoring stations in Oxnard (Ventura County), Santa Maria (Santa Barbara County), Shafter (Kern County), and Watsonville/Ohlone (Santa Cruz/Monterey County). The AMN monitors for 40 chemicals (35 pesticides and 5 breakdown products) on a weekly basis, with higher-risk pesticides prioritized based on use, likelihood to enter the air, and toxicity. Although there were pesticide detections in the air samples, DPR analysis showed that there were no pesticide concentrations that exceeded its acute, sub-chronic, or chronic screening or regulatory level in 2023, meaning that pesticide concentrations found in the air are unlikely to be harmful to human health. Visit DPR's website to view the full [final 2023 Air Monitoring Report](#).

2023 Pesticide Use Report (PUR)

In September, DPR released its latest Pesticide Use Report, showing continued reductions in pesticide use in California. DPR's annual Pesticide Use Reports include data collected by the state's 55 county agricultural commissioners, who receive reports from farmers, pesticide applicators and others required to report their usage. In total, approximately 176 million pounds of pesticides were used in 2023, a decrease of about 3% compared to 2022 data and the third year of continued declines. See the report: [Pesticide Use Reporting - 2023 Summary Data - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#).

Surface Water Database (SURF) Update

In June, DPR released the 2025 update to the department's Surface Water Database (SURF). This [SURF update](#) includes DPR monitoring studies conducted in 2023, as well as recent versions of pesticide data from the California Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This includes all qualified pesticide data that were available for download in April 2025.

SURF contains data from a wide variety of environmental monitoring studies. DPR scientists use this data to monitor for the presence and concentrations of pesticides in state rivers, creeks, ponds and drainages. This informs DPR decision-making on pesticide risk evaluations and potential mitigation actions.

SURF now contains more than 1.58 million results of water samples and over 379,000 results of sediment samples. Results were drawn from 1,103 studies conducted by federal, state, and local agencies, private industry, and environmental groups. Samples were collected in 58 counties from over 6,804 sample sites between January 1950 and February 2025.

For more information on SURF, and to find or submit data, see DPR's [Surface Water Monitoring webpage](#).

Department Milestones

Karen Morrison Appointed as DPR's Director

In August, the California State Senate unanimously confirmed the appointment of Dr. Karen Morrison as the new director for DPR. Director Morrison was initially [appointed](#) by Governor Gavin Newsom's office on February 11, 2025, and has since served at the pleasure of the Governor, following two years of leading the department as Chief Deputy Director and Science Advisor.

DPR Sustainable Pest Management Grants

In August, DPR awarded \$3.6 million in funding for projects to support research, development, and implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) systems and practices, sustainable pest management (SPM) demonstration projects, and efforts to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat.

Research Grants provide funding for research that advances new IPM knowledge and reduce risks to public health and the environment in agricultural, urban, or wildland settings. Alliance grants provide funding to projects that promote or increase the implementation, expansion, and/or adoption of effective, proven, and affordable IPM systems or practices that reduce risks to public health and the environment in agricultural, urban, or wildlands settings.

For a list of projects, please visit the grant announcement page: [California Funds Over \\$3.6 Million in Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Projects - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)

Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC)

DPR has established a new Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC). State Assembly Bill 652, signed into law in 2023, directed the department to create an EJAC, with the goal of providing prioritized recommendations to DPR on ways to integrate environmental justice considerations into department programs and decision making.

In August, DPR announced the appointment of eleven members and three alternates to the committee. The EJAC's formation represents a significant milestone in DPR's ongoing efforts to advance equity, transparency, and community engagement in pesticide regulation statewide. Members were appointed by Director Morrison for their leadership, professional expertise, and lived experience in areas including environmental justice, agriculture, public health, Indigenous and farmworker advocacy, and sustainable pest management. They represent diverse geographic regions across California, including the Central Valley, Central Coast, and both Northern and Southern California. The committee's first meeting will be held on December 10, 2025.

For more information please visit the department's EJAC webpage: [Environmental Justice Advisory Committee \(EJAC\) - Department of Pesticide Regulation](#)

Department Priorities

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/

As reflected in our [2024-28 Strategic Plan](#), our focus on sustainable pest management includes supporting increased access to sustainable pest management alternatives and improving timelines for evaluating high-risk pesticides.