



Department of Pesticide Regulation



Mary-Ann Warmerdam
Director

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

February 27, 2009

TO: Interested Parties

SUBJECT: DRAFT REGULATORY CONCEPTS TO PREVENT PESTICIDE
CONTAMINATION OF SURFACE WATER

This letter is to inform you that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) plans to develop additional regulations to prevent pesticide contamination of surface water.

Over the last 25 years, DPR has taken action to decrease movement of certain rice pesticides, endosulfan, urban pesticides, and dormant sprays to streams and rivers. In the early 1980s, the State Water Resources Control Board documented fish kills cause by the rice herbicide molinate, and the herbicide thiobencarb was shown to be the source of taste complaints in drinking water. Coordinated efforts by DPR, the county agricultural commissioners, several state agencies, the registrants, and the rice industry developed a plan to control discharges to surface water. In the 1990's reports of endosulfan contamination of surface water led to label changes to protect surface water. More recently, detections of pesticides in state waters due to use in urban areas are being addressed by reevaluation of certain products, outreach, and continued monitoring and evaluation of urban water bodies. The DPR also adopted regulations in 2007 to protect surface water from widespread detection of agricultural insecticides applied during the dormant season.

Monitoring has shown that herbicides are also contaminating surface water during the dormant season and a variety of pesticides are moving offsite to streams and rivers due to applications during the growing season. Pesticides used in the urban setting continue to be detected in surface water. As a result, DPR is now exploring options for regulating these additional pesticides to protect surface water.

Over the next 12 months we are planning to solicit input from the State Water Resources Control Board and the regional boards; county agricultural commissioners; public interest/environmental advocate groups; pesticide registrants, applicators, and advisers; and commodity organizations. The regulations will address drift as well as irrigation and stormwater runoff as potential sources of contamination.



Interested Parties
February 27, 2009
Page 2

We will be notifying the various interested parties to schedule meetings to discuss draft concepts and language, which will be made available for review before the meetings. If you are interested in attending or tracking these meetings, or receiving the draft regulatory concepts and language, please provide your name, address, and affiliation to the contact person listed below:

Lynn Capobianco
Staff Services Analyst
Environmental Monitoring Branch, DPR
Phone: 916-324-4039
E-mail: lcapobianco@cdpr.ca.gov

Sincerely,

Original signed by

John S. Sanders, Ph.D.
Environmental Program Manager II
Environmental Monitoring Branch
916-324-4155