



California Department of  
Pesticide Regulation

---

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR PEST MANAGEMENT

Sapna E. Thottathil, PhD

Deputy Director for Sustainable Pest Management



# About Me





# DPR's Mission

---

We protect people and the environment by fostering sustainable pest management and regulating pesticides.





# DPR's Vision

---

Pest management that is safe, effective, and sustainable for all Californians and the environment.





# DPR's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan

---

- Updates 2018-23 Plan; includes specific, measurable goals
- Reflects DPR's foundational role and sustainable pest management objectives and builds on recent budget and policy bill requirements
- Focus on equity and environmental justice
- 4 top areas:
  - **Increase access to safe, effective, sustainable pest management**
  - Track, evaluate, and enforce safe pesticide use
  - Foster engagement, collaboration, and transparency
  - Promote organizational excellence and innovation

# “Sustainable Pest Management”

**SEC. 3.** Section 11412 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

**11412.** “Sustainable pest management” means a holistic, whole system approach applicable to agricultural and other managed ecosystems and urban and rural communities that builds on the concept of integrated pest management to include the wider context of the three sustainability pillars: human health and social equity; environmental protection; and, economic vitality.

**SEC. 5.** Section 11520 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

**11520.** (a) The Legislature finds and declares that it is important for California to implement sustainable pest management.

(b) In order to achieve the goal described in subdivision (a), it is the intent of the Legislature that the state do all of the following:

(1) Prioritize prevention and strengthen California’s commitment to pest prevention by doing both of the following fundamental actions:

- (A) Proactively preventing the
- (B) Proactively eliminating pe

(2) Coordinate state-level leader

- (A) Creating an accountable a
- (B) Identifying ways to impro
- (C) Enhancing the ability to cl
- (D) Prompting the developme

(3) (A) Invest in building susta  
adequate access to the support  
environment, and is economicall

- (B) In agricultural pest man.  
outreach and increasing humi
- (C) In urban pest manageme  
of pesticides used in urban co

(4) Improve California’s pesticide registration processes and bring more alternative products to market by doing all of the following:

- (A) Creating mechanisms to improve the department’s registration review process and to prioritize and expedite safer, more sustainable products.
- (B) Requiring the department’s processes to reflect the goals of sustainable pest management and requiring the department to provide clarity on its scientific review and decisionmaking process for both registrants and the public.
- (C) Requiring the department to improve its processes for evaluating pesticides that are already registered.

(5) Enhance monitoring and data collection by significantly expanding and fully funding health and environmental monitoring infrastructure, data collection, and interpretation, which will enable the state to accurately track pesticide-related human illnesses and the presence of pesticides in land, water, air, biota, and structures and provide pesticide-use data and information needed for sound regulatory decisions.

## Assembly Bill No. 2113

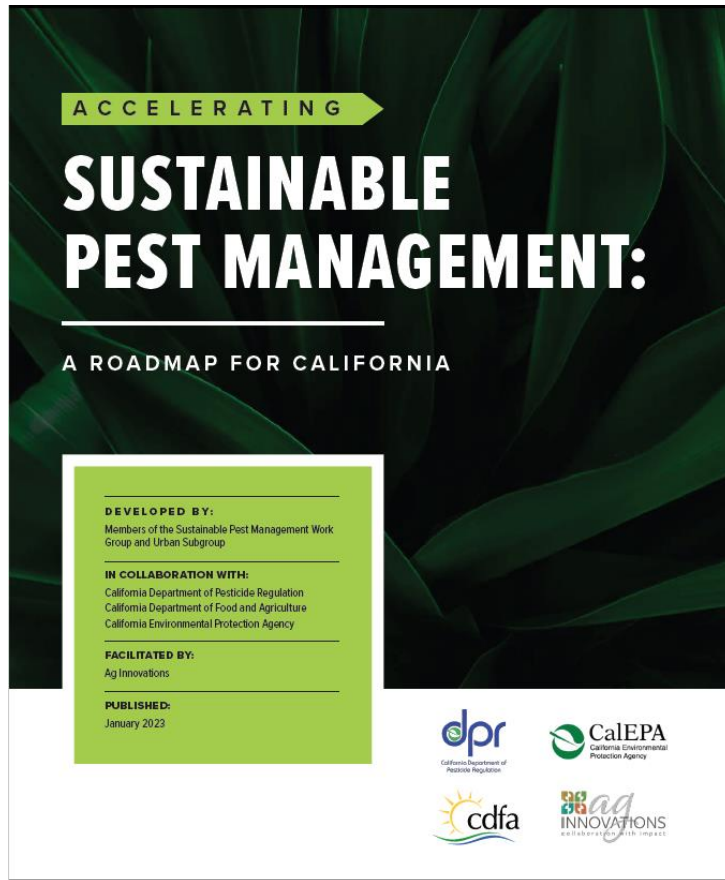
## CHAPTER 60

all pest management practitioners have equal and  
ts, minimizes adverse impacts to humans and the

g for sustainable pest management research and

ch to align with and reflect the volume and impacts

# The SPM Roadmap for California



Diverse, cross-sector work group convened by CalEPA, DPR & CDFA.

Two-year collaborative process to understand and address challenges of and opportunities for systemwide adoption of IPM, and improving health and environmental protection while supporting healthy food production.

Builds on existing IPM and land stewardship practice.

Roadmap released in Jan. 2023.

## **SPM WORK GROUP MEMBERS**

### **JEANETTE ACOSTA**

Weaving Earth

### **JENNY BROOME**

Driscoll's

### **DON CAMERON**

Terranova Ranch

### **CASEY CREAMER**

California Citrus Mutual

### **JIM FARRAR**

University of California Statewide  
Integrated Pest Management  
Program (UC IPM)

### **CHRIS GEIGER**

Formerly, San Francisco  
Department of the Environment

### **KIM HARLEY**

School of Public Health, UC  
Berkeley

### **LISA HERBERT**

Sutter County Agricultural  
Commissioner

### **NINA F. ICHIKAWA**

Berkeley Food Institute

### **DAN KAISER**

Environmental Defense Fund

### **MARGARET LLOYD**

UC Cooperative Extension

### **SUGUET LÓPEZ**

Líderes Campesinas

### **GABRIELE LUDWIG**

Almond Board of California

### **PAM MARRONE**

Invasive Species Control  
Corporation

### **NAYAMIN MARTINEZ**

Central California Environmental  
Justice Network

### **JOHN MCKEON**

Taylor Farms

### **CLIFF OHMART**

Pest Control Advisor (PCA)

### **SCOTT PARK**

Park Farming Organics

### **MARGARET REEVES**

Pesticide Action Network

### **TAYLOR ROSCHEN**

Formerly California Farm Bureau

### **SARAH RYAN**

Big Valley Band of Pomo  
Indians

### **DANIEL SONKE**

Blue Diamond Growers

### **PAUL WALGENBACH**

Bayer Crop Science

### **RON WHITEHURST**

Rincon-Vitova Insectaries

### **HOUSTON WILSON**

UC Riverside and UC  
Organic Agriculture Institute

## **URBAN SUBGROUP MEMBERS**

### **PHIL BOISE**

Urban-Ag Ecology Consulting

### **LILIAN CHOY**

Housing Authority of the City of  
Los Angeles

### **CHRIS GEIGER**

Formerly, San Francisco Dept. of  
the Environment

### **SYLVIA KENMUIR**

BASF

### **KELLY MORAN**

San Francisco Estuary Institute

### **DAVE TAMAYO**

County of Sacramento  
Stormwater Program

### **DARREN VAN STEENWYK**

Clark Pest Control

### **KAREY WINDBIEL-ROJAS**

UC Statewide Integrated Pest  
Management Program (UC IPM)





# Sustainable Pest Management (SPM)

---

Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) is a **holistic, whole-system approach** to managing pests in agricultural and other managed ecosystems and urban and rural communities.

SPM **builds on the concept and practice of integrated pest management (IPM)** and land stewardship to include the wider context of three sustainability pillars:

- Human Health and Social Equity
- Broadened Environmental Protections
- Economic Viability



# Why Sustainable Pest Management (SPM)?

**Pest management is a critical practice in agriculture for supporting a stable, healthy food supply. Pest management is also necessary to protect public health.**

- Need to address new and increasing pest pressures due to weather events and climate change.
- Further, currently available reduced-risk tools are declining in efficacy.
- Additionally, scientific studies are identifying significant impacts of high-risk pesticides that require increased restrictions on their use.

**SPM builds on the practice of IPM to develop a systemwide approach to pest management.**



# The SPM Roadmap: 2050 Goals

---

1

**BY 2050...**

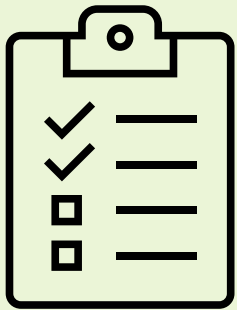
California has eliminated the use of Priority Pesticides<sup>3</sup> by transitioning to sustainable pest management practices.

2

**BY 2050...**

Sustainable pest management has been adopted as the de facto pest management system in California.

# Keystone Actions



- Prioritize **prevention**
- Coordinate state-level **leadership**
- Invest in alternatives research and building SPM **knowledge** (in all settings)
- Improve California's pesticide **registration** processes and bring alternative products to market
- Enhance **monitoring** and data collection



# Launch of CalPEST

## Dashboard

Action Required

Pending

Completed Submissions

Received Date



CALPEST ID



Type



- The California Pesticide Electronic Submission Tracking system (CalPEST) is a single information management system to combine all the current registration processes and offer online functions to stakeholders.
- CalPEST is a key milestone in streamlining and modernizing DPR's registration process.

**Improve Registration and Evaluation to  
Bring Alternatives to Market**

Showing 0 to 0 of 0 entries



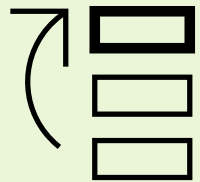
# Evaluating Biologicals

- DPR is developing procedures for **evaluating novel technologies like biopesticides** and to accelerate research authorization review to collect and analyze field data on these emerging technologies.
- This work is critical to develop longer-term evaluation guidelines for the emerging technologies that could serve as effective, safer and viable alternatives to traditional and higher-risk pesticides.

**Improve Registration and Evaluation to  
Bring Alternatives to Market**



# Signaling Priority Pesticides



DPR is in the process of developing a proposed priority pesticide process and an advisory committee.

- **Purpose:** Identify and signal the need to reduce use of Priority Pesticides, a subset of **high-risk pesticides**.
- High risk pesticides are active ingredients that are highly hazardous and/or uses that are likely to cause significant human health or environmental impacts.
- Identification will allow DPR to prioritize scientific assessment, mitigation, research into alternatives, etc.

***Priority Pesticide Identification:** by DPR informed by advice from advisory committee and public input.*



# Fumigant Alternatives Study

---

- Legislature funded independent study of fumigant alternatives to assess:
  - Present state of fumigant use in and outside of California
  - Current laws and regulations outside of California
  - Current state of research into fumigant alternatives
  - Availability/feasibility of fumigant alternatives
  - Areas where additional research is necessary to develop practical, scalable, safe alternatives
- This study began in December 2023.



# IPM Grant Funding

---

- **2021** - \$925K awarded
- **2022** - \$5.5 million awarded
- **2023** - \$4.2 million awarded
- **2024** - \$2.6 million grant funding



# IPM Grant Funding

---

**Open until November 21**

**Focus areas for funding:**

- IPM for underserved or disadvantaged communities;
- Decreasing the use of pesticides of high regulatory interest (such as fumigants like 1,3-dichloropropene or sulfuryl fluoride);
- Advancement of urban IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in urban settings;
- Advancement of IPM and safer, more sustainable pest management tools and strategies in agricultural settings adjacent to or near a school(s);
- Meeting the IPM needs of small growers; and/or
- **TWO or more** of the three sustainability pillars noted below and referenced in the [Sustainable Pest Management \(SPM\) Roadmap](#)
  - Human Health and Social Equity
  - Environmental Protections
  - Economic Vitality



# DPR Grant Funded Project Examples

- Research to reduce soil fumigation in California's seedless watermelon using grafting and biologicals
- Providing SPM education and training resources for pest control practitioners
- The use of non-chemical methods to control invasive plant species at Clear Lake
- Showing the effectiveness of using control methods and approaches other than herbicides to perform weed management in wildlands
- Demonstrating how beneficial birds can be used to control insects, rodents, and other pests on farms





# SPM Next Steps

---

- The transition to Sustainable Pest Management will require ongoing engagement and collaboration among all stakeholders.
- State's 2024-25 budget implements an increase in the mill to fund DPR's essential work-- including accelerating registration and evaluation processes to bring safe, effective pest management tools to market faster.
- Continue to invest in IPM grants to advance safe, effective, and sustainable pest management
- Coordinate state leadership on SPM



# Thank you!

---

<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/>