

CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECCION AGENCY

Overview of Cal-EPA's Boards, Departments, and Office

AIR

California's air is protected and regulated against pollution at the state level, by the **California Air Resources Board (CARB)** at the local level by one of the 35 local and **regional air pollution districts**.

California Air Resources Board (CARB)

Mission: To promote and protect public health, welfare and ecological resources through the effective and efficient reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering the effects on the economy of the state.

CARB Main Responsibilities

- Regulates pollution from motor vehicles, fuels and consumer products
- Oversees activities of 35 local and regional air pollution districts

CARB's divisions

Enforcement Division: Protects the environment by reducing emissions of air contaminants through enforcement of air pollution laws and by providing training.

Mobile Source Control Division and Mobile Source Operations Division: Responsible for developing statewide programs to reduce the emission of pollutants by mobile sources (i.e. cars, motorcycles, trucks, busses, heavy duty construction equipment, lawn and garden equipment, small utility engines).

Emissions Compliance, Automotive Regulations and Science (ECARS) Division: Responsible for developing and implementing statewide programs to advance vehicular technologies and infrastructure and reduce emissions from vehicles. ECARS also certifies and evaluates compliance with emission standards mobile sources.

Monitoring and Laboratory Division Mission Statement: Operates and maintenance of California's air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring network, including related quality assurance, chemical laboratory analysis, and emergency response programs.

Air Quality Planning and Science Division: Assesses the extent of the State's air quality problems and the progress being made to abate them, coordinates statewide development of clean air plans, maintains the CARB's databases pertaining to air quality and emissions, and applies practical and effective tools to use these data.

Research Division: Provides the highest quality scientific information and technology possible for actions to protect the health of the people and the environment of California from the effects of air pollution.

California Local Air Pollution Control Districts

Main Responsibilities

- Establishes and enforces air pollution regulations and plans in order to attain and maintain all state and federal ambient air quality standards
- Regulates pollution from **stationary sources** of air pollution (such as factories, businesses, industrial plants) and issues permits. Each district adopts its own rules and regulations to combat the particular air quality problems within its region
- Conduct public education and outreach efforts

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)

Mission: To improve the health and quality of life for all Valley residents through efficient, effective and entrepreneurial air quality management strategies.

The SJVAPCD is made up of eight counties in California's Central Valley: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin portion of Kern.

SJVAPCD Core Programs

Healthy Air Living: Initiative that provides education and opportunities to make personal or professional changes that will result in improvements in air quality by reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled, reducing emissions during poor air quality time, and by encouraging cleaner energy sources.

Healthy Air Living Schools Program: Offers tools to schools to make informed decisions about outdoor activities depending on the air quality. Tools include the "Real Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) which offers real-time air quality data to determine the right time for outdoor activities and "No Idling Campaign" which encourages parents to turn off their engines while waiting for their children.

Check Before You Burn: Educational program that notifies residents when they can use their residential wood burning device. From Nov. 1 through February, SJVAPCD issues a daily wood-burning status for each county to let residents know if they can burn.

Smoking Vehicle Program: Was established to reduce visible exhaust from vehicles traveling in the basin. Residents can call the District's toll-free number (1-800-55-99-AIR) with a complaint about a smoking vehicle they have seen.

PESTICIDES

Pesticides in California are regulated at the state level by the **Department of Pesticide Regulation** (DPR) and at the local level by the **County Agricultural Commissioners** (CACs).

Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

DPR *monitors* the use of pesticides from farm fields to grocery shelves to assure the safety of workers and the public.

Mission: To protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use, and by fostering reduced-risk pest management.

DPR's Main Responsibilities

- Regulate pesticide sales and use
- Fosters reduced-risk pest management
- Oversees product evaluation and registration, environmental monitoring, residue testing of fresh produce

DPR's Program Division branches

Pesticide Registration: Evaluates pesticide products before sale or use in California. If manufacturers cannot demonstrate that their products can be used safely to protect workers, consumers and their children, and others who may be exposed to pesticides, DPR will not allow the pesticide to be used.

Human Health Assessment: Evaluation of health impacts of pesticides through risk assessment and illness surveillance. DPR does comprehensive assessments of pesticide risks to all populations (workers, children, other sensitive groups) from exposure via air, water, and food, and in the home and workplace. All reported pesticide related illnesses are investigated and DPR uses this data to evaluate its regulatory program and to finetune safety rules.

Worker Health and Safety: Determining practices to ensure a safe pesticide workplace.

Enforcement: Regulate pesticides under a comprehensive program that encompasses enforcement of pesticide use in agricultural and urban environments. DPR oversees a multi-tiered enforcement infrastructure and is vested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with primary responsibility to enforce federal pesticide laws in California. DPR directs and oversees the County Agricultural Commissioners who carry

out and enforce pesticide and environmental laws and regulations locally, including enforcement for the Department of Consumer Affairs' Structural Pest Control Board.

Environmental Monitoring: Pesticide monitoring is done to find out if air, water, soil, or vegetation has been contaminated by a pesticide, or to learn the extent of contamination. DPR does regular ground and surface water sampling with this goal in mind. DPR also does monitoring to evaluate the likelihood of pesticides causing health problems for workers using pesticides and for people near treated areas, and to provide data to develop new use practices designed to prevent harm.

Product Compliance: Residue testing of fresh fruit and vegetables, sampling domestic and imported produce from wholesale and retail outlets, distribution centers, and farmers markets

Pest Management and Licensing: Statewide licensing of commercial applicators, dealers, consultants, and other pesticide professionals to ensure they are adequately trained to use pesticides safely. Through grants, awards and regulatory incentives, DPR supports development and adoption of pest management practices designed to encourage reductions in pesticide use in favor of more natural pest controls, and to reduce or eliminate harmful environmental and health impacts of pesticides.

County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs):

Under DPR oversight, the commissioners serve as the local enforcement agents for pesticide laws and regulations in the state's 58 counties.

Ag Commissioners' Main Responsibilities

- Investigate pesticide illness, injuries and complaints. CAC biologists interview the victims and employers (if injury occur at work). If law was broken and made people ill, CAC takes enforcement action (i.e. issuing civil and criminal penalties; revoking/suspending the right of a pest company to do business in the county; prohibiting harvest of a crop that contains illegal residues)
- Issuing the site- and time-specific permits required to use restricted pesticides in agriculture. CAC must evaluate the proposed use to determine if the pesticide can be used safely and whether a safer pesticide or better method of application could be used. CAC must ensure that applicators take precautions to protect people and the environment

Other key CACs duties include

- Enforce many of the California Department of Food and Agricultural (CFDA) laws including those related to pest detection, eradication and exclusion and verifying quality standards for fruits and vegetables

- Enforce regulations to protect ground and surface water from pesticide contamination
- Check maintenance gardeners to ensure they are licensed to apply pesticides and that pesticides are labeled for professional landscaping
- Outside the pesticide arena, CACs: a) Sample imported produce at airports, seaports, post offices and check nursery products; b) Inspect nurseries and seed producers; c) Enforce state's organic food laws and oversee certified farmer's markets; d) Prepare an annual county crop report; e) Enforce weights and measures laws and regulations

WASTE

California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle)

CalRecycle is the state's primary authority on recycling, waste reduction, and product reuse.

Mission: To protect the health and safety of Californians and the environment. CalRecycle's vision is to inspire and challenge Californians to achieve the highest waste reduction, recycling and reuse goals in the nation.

CalRecycle Main Responsibilities

- Administers and provides oversight for all of California's state-managed waste handling and recycling programs
- Promotes waste diversion by promoting recycling and composting and increasing the diversion of organic materials away from landfills and toward the production of value-added products such as compost, fertilizers, and biofuels.
- Administers the Education and Environment Initiative (EEI), a statewide effort promoting environmental education in California
- Provides training and technical assistance to Local Enforcement Agencies, which regulate and inspect California's active and closed solid waste landfills, as well as materials recovery facilities, solid waste transfer stations, and compost facilities

CalRecycle Main Programs

Beverage container: California Redemption Value (CRV) provides consumers and organizations a financial incentive to recycle their empty beverage containers. Recycling bottles and cans saves energy, conserves natural resources, and provides valuable raw materials for new products.

Electronic-waste: This program offsets the cost of compliantly handling certain unwanted electronic devices. The program has fostered a robust collection and

processing infrastructure in the state, resulting in over two billion pounds of unwanted TVs and monitors recovered and recycled.

Organics management; This program supports the collection and processing of organic materials, particularly food.

Used tires: This program regulates and manages waste tires within the state

Used motor oil: This program develops and promotes alternatives to the illegal disposal of used oil by establishing a statewide network of collection opportunities and undertaking outreach efforts to inform and motivate the public to recycle used oil.

Carpet: This program, started in 2011, follows producer responsibility principles to ensure that over time discarded carpets become a resource for new products in a manner that is sustainably funded and provides jobs for Californians. Several carpet recycling facilities currently operate in California, offering jobs, and producing products and feedstock for products made from recycled carpet.

Paint Stewardship Program: Statewide program to reduce the generation of leftover paint, promote its reuse, and properly manage unwanted leftover paint. follows producer responsibility principles to ensure that leftover paint is properly managed in a manner that is sustainably funded.

Mattresses Stewardship Program: Statewide program that aims to reduce illegal dumping, increase recycling, and substantially reduce public agency costs for the end-of-use management of used mattresses.

Other programs run by CalRecycle include: Rigid plastic containers; Plastic film wrap, Newsprint, Construction and demolition debris; Medical sharps waste; Household hazardous waste; and Food-scrap composting.

TOXIC SUBSTANCES

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)

Mission: To protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated resources, enforcing hazardous waste laws, reducing hazardous waste generation, and encouraging the manufacture of chemically safer products.

DTSC's Main Responsibilities

- Conduct inspections and taking enforcement actions to ensure compliance
- Provide emergency response support for hazardous materials-related emergencies throughout California
- Make decisions on permit applications for 118 permitted facilities, including 89 existing and 29 closed hazardous waste facilities
- Ensure companies provide financial assurance for future closure or cleanup activities
- Investigate potential criminal activities with sworn peace officers who have the powers of arrest, search and seizure
- Clean up properties that were contaminated by past activities
- Ensuring new schools built in California are safe from the effects of hazardous waste
- Protecting precious water resources by removing and preventing the spread of contamination in soil
- Removing wastes from properties so those properties can be put back into productive use

DTSC Main Programs

Safer Products and Workplaces Program: Program that identifies and prioritizes chemicals of concern in consumer products, evaluates alternatives, and specifies regulatory responses to reduce chemicals of concern in products. This program is also responsible for providing health and safety support and consultation to DTSC staff relative to their office and field activities.

Hazardous Waste Management Program: This program is responsible for several important functions: a) Issue permit decisions for proposed new hazardous waste facilities and the approximately 120 existing hazardous waste facilities in California that treat, store, and dispose of hazardous waste; b) Conduct inspections and take enforcement actions to ensure compliance with hazardous waste laws and regulations; c) Oversee the hazardous waste generator program; d) Provide hazardous waste management-related policy support, regulatory and statutory interpretation, financial assurance, and data management support for internal and external stakeholders; e) Provide emergency response support for hazardous materials-related emergencies throughout California.

Brownfields & Environmental Restoration Program: This program is responsible for the cleanup and restoration of contaminated sites throughout the state; including legacy landfills (e.g., BKK Landfill), the Santa Susana Field Lab, military bases, former industrial properties, and school sites.

Environmental Chemistry Laboratory: The lab provides DTSC and other agencies within Cal/EPA with scientific leadership and laboratory capacity in the areas of environmental analytical chemistry and biochemistry. Scientists identify and measure concentrations of

toxic chemicals in many different media including air, water, soil, hazardous waste streams, consumer products, and biological or human tissues.

Health & the Environment

Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)

The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) is the lead state agency for the assessment of health risks posed by environmental contaminants.

Mission: To protect human health and the environment through scientific evaluation of risks posed by hazardous substances.

OEHHA's Main Responsibilities

- Develop and update the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool: CalEnviroScreen, which is a screening methodology that can be used to help identify California communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution
- Evaluate health risks associated with human exposure to chemical contaminants in the environment
- Advise state and local agencies on above health risks
- Maintain the state's "Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986" (commonly known as Proposition 65) which compiles the state's list of substances that cause cancer or reproductive harm.
- Develops health-protective exposure levels for contaminants in air, water, and soil as guidance for regulatory agencies and the public. These include public health goals for contaminants in drinking water and both cancer potency factors and non-cancer reference exposure levels for the Air Toxics Hot Spots Program.

Other key OEHHA activities include:

- Developing fish advisories for mercury and other contaminants in sport fish from water bodies throughout the state, and making recommendations regarding fishing safety and closures after marine oil spills.
- Collaborating with the California Department of Public Health and Department of Toxic Substances Control on the Biomonitoring California program, which measures levels of chemicals found in Californians' bodies.
- Developing a pioneering environmental health screening tool that can be used to put together a more comprehensive picture of the burdens California communities

face from environmental pollutants and their vulnerability to health and economic impacts.

- Identifying and analyzing indicators of climate change through the Environmental Protection Indicators for California program.
- Provide scientific peer review of pesticide risk assessments; works with the Department of Pesticide Regulation to develop regulations to protect pesticide worker health and safety; trains physicians to recognize pesticide-related illnesses; and works with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to provide health information on pesticide applications aimed at combating invasive species.

WATER

California's water is protected and regulated against pollution at the state level, by the ***State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)*** and at the local level by one of the nine ***Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Boards)***.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)

Mission: To ensure the highest reasonable quality for waters of the State, while allocating those waters to achieve the optimum balance of beneficial uses.

SWRCB Main Responsibilities

- Allocate water rights and adjudicates water rights' disputes
- Develop statewide water protection plans
- Establishes water quality standards
- Regulate wastewater discharges to surface water (rivers, ocean, etc.) and to groundwater (via land)

SWRCB Main Programs

Biosolids: Ensures that the Use or Disposal of Sewage Sludge (a.k.a. biosolids) comply with the California Water Code in addition to meeting the Federal Regulations.

Dredge/Fill Wetlands: This program has special responsibility for protecting wetlands, riparian areas, and headwaters; it encourages basin-level analysis and protection and regulates discharges of fill and dredged material. SWRCB directly regulates multi-regional projects.

Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program (ILRP): Regulates discharges from irrigated agricultural lands. This is done by issuing waste discharge requirements (WDRs) or conditional waivers of WDRs (Orders) to growers.

Land Disposal: Regulates waste discharge to land for treatment, storage and disposal in waste management units including waste piles, surface impoundments, and landfills.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program: Controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States. This is a federal program which has been delegated to the State of California for implementation.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO): Provides a consistent, statewide regulatory approach to address SSOs. Requires public agencies that own or operate sanitary sewer systems to develop and implement sewer system management plans and report all SSOs to the SWRCB.

Storm Water: The Water Boards are actively involved in initiatives to improve the management of storm water as a resource.

Regional Water Boards

Mission: Develop and enforce water quality objectives and implementation plans that will best protect the beneficial uses of the State's waters, recognizing local differences in climate, topography, geology and hydrology. Regional Boards have branch offices in Redding and Fresno.

Regional Water Boards Main Responsibilities

- Develop "basin plans" for their hydrologic areas
- Govern requirements/issue waste discharge permits
- Take enforcement actions against violators
- Monitor water quality

Regional Water Boards' Programs

Agricultural Regulatory (AGT): Regulates activities related to agricultural production, including commercial nurseries, fertilizer and pesticide applicator sites. Program also oversees regulation and cleanup of aboveground fuel tanks.

Confined Animal Facilities: Encourages the use of appropriate waste management practices and takes regulatory action when dairies follow practices that pose a threat to water quality.

Landfills and Mining: Develops waste discharge requirements, performs compliance inspections and prepares enforcement actions at hazardous waste sites (landfills, mines, and other industrial wastes that contain high levels of contaminants that would degrade groundwater).

Spills, Leaks, Investigations, and Cleanups (SLIC): Conducts investigations associated with contaminated drinking water wells, public complaints, routine environmental sampling, referrals from other agencies, and disclosures from the dischargers.

Underground Storage Tanks (UST): This program includes: leak prevention, oversight of leaking underground tank cleanups and reimbursement to responsible parties conducting cleanup.

Wastewater Discharges to Land: The program involves: adopting waste discharge requirements which specify acceptable levels of pollutants which may be discharged, special studies to be conducted, and a monitoring program to assess compliance.

Agricultural Regulatory: This program involves regulation of activities related to agricultural production, including commercial nurseries and fertilizer and pesticide applicator sites.

Above-Ground Tanks(AGT): Oversees regulation and cleanup of aboveground fuel tanks.