

ITEM:

SUBJECT: Department of Pesticide Regulation: Ground Water Protection Program Overview

BOARD ACTION: *Information Report – No Board Action*

BACKGROUND: Representatives from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (Department) will present an overview of DPR's Ground Water Protection Program (GWPP) to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Board). For over twenty years, since the passage of the Pesticide Contamination Prevention Act of 1985 (PCPA), DPR has conducted monitoring studies on pesticide contamination of ground water. PCPA requires that use of pesticides detected in ground water be prohibited unless future contamination can be controlled. Specifically, the PCPA requires the following:

- registrants of agricultural use pesticides to submit environmental fate data to DPR,
- DPR to use that data to identify pesticides with the potential to pollute ground water,
- DPR to monitor ground water for those pesticides to determine if they have moved to ground water,
- all local, county, and state agencies to submit results of well sampling for pesticides to DPR,
- DPR to maintain a data base of wells sampled for pesticides in California and place a annual summary and analysis of the well sampling data on DPR's website,
- DPR to verify reports of pesticide detections in ground water and determine whether those detections are due to legal agricultural use, and
- DPR to formally review pesticides found in ground water due to [legal agricultural use](#). The purpose of the formal review is to determine if the detected pesticide pollutes or threatens to pollute ground water and if so, to determine whether new management practices can be adopted to allow continued use.

Over the past two decades the Department's Environmental Branch has collected more than 60,000 samples from approximately 5,000 domestic, single-family drinking water wells. Detections in some of the samples resulted in further investigations as to the causes of contamination. As a result of its monitoring efforts and scientific research, the Department promulgated new regulations that took effect in 2004. The new regulatory approach expanded the areas of consideration from 313,000 acres statewide ("pesticide management zones") to approximately 2.4 million acres across the state where ground water is most vulnerable to pesticide contamination from either leaching or runoff ("ground water protection areas"). In addition, the new rules prescribe actions to prevent pesticides from reaching ground water in these protection areas before contamination actually occurs.

At the conclusion of their presentation, Board members may wish to discuss with Department representatives the feasibility of utilizing the DPR's Ground Water Protection Program to address ground water protection associated with various Board programs.

RECOMMENDATION: Informational only.

Mgmt. Review _____

Legal Review _____

26/27 October 2006
11020 Sun Center Dr. #200
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670