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## Inventory of the Department of Pesticide Regulation Records

Finding aid written by Kim Mitchell

California State Archives

1020 "O" Street

Sacramento, California 95814

Phone: (916) 653-2246

Fax: (916) 653-7363

Email: [ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov](mailto:ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov)

URL: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>

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## Inventory of the Department of Pesticide Regulation Records

### Record Group number: R195

California State Archives  
Office of the Secretary of State  
Sacramento, California

#### Contact Information:

California State Archives  
1020 "O" Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Phone: (916) 653-2246  
Fax: (916) 653-7363  
Email: ArchivesWeb@sos.ca.gov  
URL: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/>

Processed by: Kim Mitchell

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Encoded by: Sara Kuzak

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#### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Department of Pesticide Regulation Records

**Dates:** 1950-2004

**Collection number:** R195

**Creator:** California Department of Pesticide Regulation

**Extent:** 14 cubic feet

**Repository:** California State Archives  
Sacramento, California

**Abstract:** The records of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) consist of 14 cubic feet of textual records reflecting the agency's administration of California's many and varied pesticide regulatory programs. The records are dated from 1950 to 2004, are separated into three subgroups, and include ten record series.

**Physical location:** California State Archives

**Language:** English

#### Access

While the majority of the records are open for research, any access restrictions are noted in the record series descriptions.

#### Publication Rights

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#### Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Department of Pesticide Regulation Records, R195.[series number], [box and folder number], California State Archives, Office of the Secretary of State, Sacramento, California.

#### Acquisition Information

The California State Archives acquired the records of the Department of Pesticide Regulation per state law.

#### Agency History

Agriculture has always been a major component of California's economy. Mention of some form of pesticide regulation responsibilities can be found in the state's budget as far back as 1923 under the Department of Agriculture's Division

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(sometimes Bureau) of Chemistry. Between 1962 and 1968, it appears that the Division of Chemistry shared pesticide-related responsibilities with the Division of Standardization and Inspection.

In 1968, Governor Reagan's Reorganization Plan #1 (Statutes of 1968) created the Agriculture and Services Agency which moved the Department of Agriculture under this new superagency. At this time, the Department did some internal reorganizing. The Division of Inspection Services included several programming elements related to pesticides: Chemistry, Field Crops and Agricultural Chemicals, Pesticides, and Pesticide Residue. In 1969, HR480 directed a committee to study the control of pesticides and to report its findings by 1970. In 1973, the Department of Agriculture was renamed the Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA).

In response to new federal mandates, the state legislature enacted Chapter 308 (Statutes of 1978) which required the DFA to develop and oversee a statewide Pesticide Regulatory Program. In the same year, Governor Jerry Brown dissolved the Agriculture and Services superagency; DFA was now a stand-alone agency.

In 1980, DFA once again completed an internal reorganization which resulted in the establishment of the Division of Pest Management, Environmental Protection and Worker Safety, the body responsible for managing the Pesticide Regulatory Program. In 1985, this division's name was shortened to Pest Management. In 1986, Governor Deukmejian approved major budget increases for the evaluation and enforcement of pesticide regulation.

Governor Wilson's Reorganization Plan #1 (Statutes of 1991) removed all pesticide-related responsibilities from the DFA and placed those powers into the newly formed Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR). DPR was placed under the authority of the also newly formed superagency, the Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA). According to DPR's 1988 strategic plan, the agency "has the primary responsibility for regulating all aspects of pesticide sales and use to protect the public health and the environment". Furthermore, the agency's mission is to "evaluate and mitigate impacts of pesticide use, maintain the safety of the pesticide workplace, ensure product effectiveness, and encourage the development and use of reduced risk pest control practices while recognizing the need for pest management in a healthy economy."

Since its inception in 1992, DPR has frequently changed the names and, to a lesser extent, scope of its divisions. For example, Executive and Administrative Services (1992-2005) changed to Administration (2005-2010); Enforcement, Environmental Monitoring and Data Management (1993-2002) changed to Pest Management, Environmental Monitoring, Enforcement, and Licensing. Other divisions are not so clearly explained: Pesticide Programs (2005-2010); State-Mandated Local Programs (1999-2005); Registration and Health Evaluation (1993-2005); Pesticide Regulation (1992-1995).

Researcher note: Because this collection contains records from both the Department of Agriculture as well as the Department of Pesticide Regulation, it is recommended that the researcher also consult the Department of (Food and) Agriculture's records.

### **Scope and Content**

The records of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) consist of 14 cubic feet of textual records reflecting the agency's administration of California's many and varied pesticide regulatory programs. The records are dated from 1950 to 2004, are separated into three subgroups, and include ten record series. Because the records date from the time periods both before and after the creation of DPR as its own agency, the names of two of the three sub-groups reflect an encapsulating description rather than a literal agency division.

The Executive subgroup (1983-2004) contains the largest volume of records and includes the following records series: Bill Files, Director's Subject Files, Director's Technical Files, Chief Deputy Director's Subject Files, and the Chief Deputy Director's Technical Files. These series reflect the wide variety of information and functions administered for the agency by the executive staff. This subgroup highlights legislation as well as policy, litigation, chemicals, and collaboration with other organizations and agencies.

The Worker Health and Safety Branch sub-group contains one series, the Health and Safety Briefs. These briefs provide a snapshot of the executive concerns and guiding policies from 1988 to 1994 as they pertain to those who are employed by companies or agencies that use, create, distribute, or investigate pesticides.

The Pesticide Enforcement-Licensing subgroup (1950-1998) includes four record series. Three of these series reflect the state's emphasis on the creation of an educated pesticide employee workforce. The Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Files pertain to the legally mandated development of qualifications and examinations for licensed pesticide advisers, operators, and similar. The records found in the series titled Examinations can be seen as examples of the result of the Committee's efforts. Later DPR would contract with the University of California, Davis (UCD) to develop and implement educational curriculum and training for personnel of pesticide regulatory organizations, as seen in the Pesticide Regulation Education Program (PREP) Files.

The final series is the Medfly Files. The invasion of the Medfly into Northern California was perceived as nothing short of potentially disastrous, not only for the State but for the entire nation, to whom California provides a significant amount of food crops. These files summarize interstate and intrastate coordination and cooperation as well as dialogue with relevant

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federal bodies. The majority of this series, however, concern litigation surrounding the pesticide spraying that was used to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly.

**Accruals**

Further accruals are expected.

**Subjects**

California Environmental Protection Agency. Department of Pesticide Regulation

California. Division of Pest Management

Mediterranean fruit-fly

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**Records of the Executive Office**

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R195.001, Box 1,  
folder 1 - Box 6,  
folder 11

Series 1 **Bill Files 1983-1998**

**Physical Description:** 150 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically by legislative session, then numerically by bill number.

**Scope and Content Note**

Bill Files pertain to legislation of interest to the agency, whether by authoring or sponsoring the bill. Files include analyses, reports, statistics, notes, background, press releases, memoranda, correspondence, and news clippings. Significant topics include: pest control (AB294, AB2635, AB3916, 1983-1984); economic poisons (AB144, AB1211, AB2503, AB3018, AB3910, SB1601, 1983-1984; AB1286, 1987-1988); hazardous materials (AB2185, AB 2187, 1985-1986; SB356, 1989-1990); public records (AB567, 1985-1986); pesticide residue (AB1397, 1985-1986); pesticide exposure in children and fetuses (SB2475, 1987-1988; SB550, 1993-1994; AB278, 1997-1998); air pollution (AB177, AB552, AB924, AB2369, AB2981, 1995-1996); occupational safety and farm laborers (AB318, AB3146, 1991-1992; AB1930, 1993-1994); sewage waste (SB205, 1995-1996); organic food (AB1713, 1993-1994); endangered species (AB426, 1993-1994); and pesticide monitoring (AB417, 1989-1990; SB661, 1997-1998).

1983-1984: AB294-AB3916 (4ff) Box 1/1-4

1983-1984: SB462-SB1792 (1ff) Box 1/5

1985-1986: AB22-AB3128 (6ff) Box 1/6-11

1985-1986: SB269-SB1889 (4ff) Box 1/12-15

1987-1988: AB414-AB4097 (15ff) Box 1/16-30

1987-1988: SB366-SB2475 (5ff) Box 2/1-5

1989-1990: AB311-AB4160 (14ff) Box 2/6-19

1989-1990: SB356-SB2864 (4ff) Box 2/20-23

1991-1992: AB816-AB3650 (7ff) Box 2/24-Box 3/3

1991-1992: SB46-SB1794 (12ff) Box 3/4-15

1993-1994: AB145-AB3787, ACA34, AJR68 (17ff) Box 3/16-Box 4/5

1993-1994: SB106-SB2070 (9ff) Box 4/6-14

1995-1996: AB116-AB3303 (6ff) Box 4/15-20

1995-1996: SB1-SB2062, SB1XXX (11ff) Box 4/21-Box 5/3

1997-1998: AB179-AB2757 (14ff) Box 5/4-17

1997-1998: SB62-SB2119, SJR44 (21ff) Box 5/18-Box 6/11

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R195.002, Box 6,  
folder 12-Box 9,  
folder 8

Series 2 **Director's Subject Files 1997-1998**

**Physical Description:** 84 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Director's Subject Files were created under the administration of Jim Wells and pertain to the many and varied topics of interest to DPR. Files include records such as correspondence, reports, statistics, memoranda, calendars, contracts, speeches, agendas, minutes, and publications. Significant topics include enforcement, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Methyl Bromide, regulations, scientific review panels, and the University of California, Davis (UCD). Organizations that frequently appear in the records of this series include the Association of American Pesticide Control Officers (AAPCO), the Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee (CHPAC), the Watershed Protection Council (WPRC), and the Structural Pest Control Board.

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R195.003, Box 9,  
folder 9 - Box 10,  
folder 7

Series 3 **Director's Technical Files 2003-2004**

**Physical Description:** 37 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Director's Technical Files were created under the administration of acting director Paul Gosselin and then later under Mary-Ann Warmerdam. Files pertain to the many and varied topics of interest to DPR and include correspondence, reports, statistics, memoranda, notes, background, agendas, and minutes. Recurring topics include the County Agricultural Commissioners, the Public Records Act, registration, legislation, and integrated pest management.

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R195.004, Box 10,  
folder 8-Box 12,  
folder 48

Series 4 **Chief Deputy Director's Subject Files 1997-1999**

**Physical Description:** 150 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Deputy's Subject Files were created first under Jean-Marie Peltier and then later under Paul Gosselin. The files pertain to the many and varied topics of interest to DPR and include correspondence, reports, speeches, memoranda, news clippings, background, notes, agendas, minutes, and promotional materials. Significant topics include legislation, birth defects, endangered species, Methidathion, environmental monitoring, the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), the Natural Resources Defense Council, Proposition 65, risk assessment, organization charts, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Foreign Agricultural Service.

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R195.005, Box 13,  
folders 1-16

Series 5 **Chief Deputy Director's Technical Files 2003-2004**

**Physical Description:** 150 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Deputy's Technical Files were created under the administration of Paul Gosselin and pertain to the many and varied topics of interest to DPR. Files include correspondence, memoranda, reports, notes, statistics, and press releases. Significant topics include environmental justice, fiscal services, medical toxicology, County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC), West Nile virus, and the federal Environmental Protection Agency, and California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA).

**Records of the Worker Health and Safety Branch**

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R195.006, Box 13,  
folder 17

Series 1 **Health and Safety Briefs 1988-1994**

**Physical Description:** 1 file folder

**Arrangement**

Arranged numerically by brief number.

**Scope and Content Note**

The majority of the Health and Safety Briefs date from the Department of Food and Agriculture, Worker Health and Safety Branch, but continue through and after the creation of the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Numbered HSB-001 to HSB-024, these briefs report analysis of specific chemical products or classifications of chemicals. Briefs include implications on health and safety of both workers and consumers. Common recurring topics include chemical exposure, worker safety, and the Labor Code.

**Records of Pesticide Enforcement - Licensing**

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R195.007, Box 13,  
folders 18-31

Series 1 **Examinations 1950-1989**

**Physical Description:** 14 file folders

**Access Information**

This series contains five files which are restricted under the California Public Records Act, Government Code section 6254 (g) (examinations for state employment).

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

This series primarily contains exams and corresponding answer keys to the following state licensing tests: Certification of Commercial Applicators, Pest Control Adviser, Pest Control Operator, Pilot, and Pilot's Apprentice. Not all exams include answer keys; multiple booklets for the same exam are sometimes present. Other types of records, such as correspondence and reports, are primarily found in the file titled "General." Topics of exams include weeds, orchards, rodents, aquatic, institutional, ornamental gardens, and pesticide dealers.

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R197.008, Box 13,  
folders 32-40

Series 2 **Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Files 1972-1973 1987**

**Physical Description:** 9 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically by date.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee was created by Chapter 1276 (Statutes of 1971) which also established the licensing program for agricultural pest control advisers. The Committee was to advise the Director of the Department of Agriculture on all matters concerning the education, examination, and qualifications of agricultural pest control advisers. Subcommittees included: Qualifications, Examinations, Training, and Continuing Education.

The series comprises nine meeting files, eight of which are dated 1972-1973; the final file is from 1987. The files include correspondence, reports, minutes, agendas, notes, and news clippings. Topics of interest include license renewal, specialization, dosage, property rights, accreditation, endangered species, and groundwater.

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R197.009, Box 14,  
folders 1-8

Series 3 **Pesticide Regulation Education Program (PREP) Files 1995-1998**

**Physical Description:** 8 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged chronologically by year.

**Scope and Content Note**

Chapter 139 (Statutes of 1994) allotted the funding for DPR to contract with the University of California, Davis (UCD) to develop an educational program for senior personnel of pesticide regulatory programs throughout the United States. This was an expansion of similar training courses conducted by ICD between 1990 and 1994. The goals of PREP included: to develop, enhance, and strengthen state and regional capabilities to regulate pesticides; enforce those regulations; prevent pollution; and improve cooperation between regulatory agencies. The objectives included: assess training needs, design training and format curriculum, implement the program, and continue development of national educational program.

The PREP Files contain correspondence, reports, memoranda, notes, federal grant applications, and interagency agreements. The series includes the various documentation associated with administering the Program.

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R197.010, Box 14,  
folders 9-25

Series 4 **Medfly Files 1980-1985**

**Physical Description:** 17 file folders

**Arrangement**

Arranged alphabetically by subject heading.

**Scope and Content Note**

The sudden invasion of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) in Northern California during the early 1980s was considered to be a dire threat to California's economy, which is largely dependent on agricultural crops. The Medfly, originating in West Africa and about the size of a house fly, lays eggs on or inside of host plants, preventing the plant's fruit from ripening or otherwise damaging the plant. While stone fruits such as peaches are the most susceptible to the Medfly, the insect can use many other types of plants as hosts including categories like citrus, nut, and ornamentals. It was estimated that more than 2.5 million of acres of crops worth \$4 billion were threatened by this insect. Because the Medfly had the potential to spread quickly, the State of California decided to act swiftly and decisively in the areas already affected by spraying pesticides on the crops, either directly or via aerial spraying.

The Medfly Files contain correspondence, reports, statistics, notes, background, memoranda, testimony, newsletters, brochures, and meetings agendas. Significant topics include congressional briefings, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and pilots/aerial spraying. The bulk of the series regards litigation. One example is that of individuals suing the State of California due to health problems associated with the aerial spraying of pesticides; another example is the State of Texas suing California due to trade discrepancies of consumable produce.