



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5520
(530) 626-4756 FAX
eldcag@edcgov.us

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Lloyd Walker, Vice -Chair – Other Agricultural Interest
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
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July 13, 2011

Governor Jerry Brown
c/o Cliff Rechtschaffen
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown,

We are writing in support of the efforts of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to develop an environmental impact report (EIR) for its statewide pest prevention and management program. This is a good example of a government agency acting in a proactive way that serves not only to fulfill their mission but also use good fiscal management in the pursuit of that mission. The proposed EIR will help make the pest prevention and management program not only more effective and efficient, but also more transparent. The program EIR is scheduled for completion in early 2013.

The proposed EIR will be comprehensive and employ integrated pest management (IPM) principles for management of invasive pests. Because it is comprehensive, it uses the agency funding in a more responsible way than developing an EIR for each pest prevention or management program as it comes along. Because it employs IPM principles, it is also an example of government environmental responsibility.

The proposed EIR will be written in such a way, using a decision-tree, that it will not only be easy to use, it will also make the decision-making process more transparent and easier for the public to understand. This EIR will provide the scientific and technical foundation for the agency's decision making within the program; including choice of management tools, mitigation measures and alternatives.

CDFA is using extraordinary measures to ensure input from the public, stakeholders, and other government partners with multiple public scoping meetings and a website with a listserv to help keep interested parties informed. The completed EIR will be an environmental document that CDFA can use in the future to make informed decisions that the public can easily understand. We feel that this is a benefit to California agriculture, the taxpayer, and the public in general.

Sincerely,

Juli D. Jensen, Agricultural Commissioner
On behalf of El Dorado County Agricultural Commission