

DRAFT MINUTES

California Department of Food and
Agriculture Integrated Pest Control Branch
**VERTEBRATE PEST CONTROL RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING**

**Kings County Department of Agriculture
680 N Campus Drive, Hanford, CA 93230**

November 3, 2022

Members Present

Jimmy Hook
David Kratville, CDFA
Dr. Paul Stapp
Dr. Robert Timm
Dr. Mark Novak

Members Absent

Brandon Fawaz
Ken Zimmerman

CDFA Department Personnel

Michelle Dennis
Jennifer Gordon
Canh Nguyen
Raj Randhawa

Guest Present**County:**

Mario Gutierrez, Kings County of Agriculture
Chris DeNijs, Nevada County of Agriculture

Liphatech:

Katie Swift
Ross Horn

UC Davis:

Roger Baldwin

DPR:

Nathan Desjarlais, CDPR

Public:

April Vingum
Craig Riekema

INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. by Chairman Jimmy Hook and introductions were made. The Vertebrate Pest Control Research Advisory Committee (VPCRAC) acknowledged that the meeting was held in compliance with the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act.

MINUTES FOR November 16, 2021 and April 28, 2022 MEETINGS

The minutes from the Fall, November 16, 2021, and the Spring, April 28, 2022, meeting was reviewed. Committee decided to wait for voting to approve the minutes till the next meeting in Spring for corrections needed.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AG (CDFA) UPDATE

CDFA updates

Toured with mixing counties and confirmed Kings County will be identified as soul source for manufacturing and shipping baits across state to Los Angeles County.

Vertebrate Legislation and Regulations

Mr. Kratville gave an update on the passing of AB 1959, Carbon monoxide delivery devices. The Law states, " Existing law authorizes the use of carbon monoxide for the control of burrowing rodent pests subject to specified conditions, including that the carbon monoxide delivery device is permanently affixed with a special warning label. Existing law repeals those provisions on January 1, 2023. The bill extended sunset to January 1, 2026."

California Department of Pesticide Regulation Update

No updates.

County Monthly Report Data

No updates.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Program Budget, Expenditures, Revenue Review, Fund Condition, and Research Expenditures

Corrections needed for financial reports. Committee decided to wait on voting for approval financial reports till the next meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Board Member Requirements

No updates at this time.

Vacancy

No candidates at this time.

Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

Committee felt they didn't need to make any changes to this.

2021-2022 RESEARCH PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Mr. Kratville gave no new changes to current guidelines for proposals as listed on the

grants.ca.gov website which is linked to our CDFA Vertebrate page for templates to submit proposals.

RESEARCH PROPOSALS

- a) “Determining utility of drones for monitoring ground squirrel burrow systems.” R. Baldwin,
UC Davis

Motions: 5. Jimmy Hook moved that the Committee accept Roger Baldwin research project titled “Determining utility of drones for monitoring ground squirrel burrow systems.” in the amount of \$76,018. The motion was seconded by Dr. Robert Timm and passed unanimously.

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstention</u>
David Kratville		
Jimmy Hook	N/A	N/A
Dr. Robert Timm		
Dr. Paul Stapp		
Dr. Mark Novak		

RESEARCH UPDATES

Developing and testing an IPM approach for managing roof rats in citrus.

Dr. Roger Baldwin gave report for this project.

Roof rats (*Rattus rattus*) cause extensive damage in a number of tree crops including citrus. Roof rat populations seem to be expanding and growing throughout many agricultural regions in CA, yet management options for limiting this damage have been largely unsuccessful. The development of an IPM program could greatly reduce this damage, but we currently lack a good understanding of the efficacy of management tools for roof rats in citrus. Set out to test a potential IPM program for managing roof rats in citrus. Initial efforts focused on a combination of 0.005% diphacinone-treated oat groats placed in elevated bait stations to knock down populations. This was followed this up with snap trapping at sites where rats were still detected, Goodnature A24 traps were then placed in a grid pattern throughout the orchards in an attempt to intercept reinvading roof rats and keep populations depressed over an extended timeframe. This

all was compared to sites where only bait stations were operated. To date, bait stations have been effective at reducing roof rat abundance at treatment sites (mean efficacy = 76%). However, populations have rebounded within 2 months of the completion of the baiting program in both bait station (mean increase of 81% in rat activity since initial treatment) and IPM plots (mean increase of 3% in rat activity since initial treatment), indicating that subsequent snap trapping and A24 traps did not adequately slow reinvasion. Will continue to collect data from two additional study plots, but if the same trends continue, may alter our trapping strategy in an attempt to increase the utility of this approach as part of an IPM program.

Investigating invasive roof rat resistance by screening for genetic mutations and metabolic changes.

No update at this time. Project just started.

OTHER ITEMS

Identifying Northern California rodenticide mixing location.

No counties have shown interest to be a mixing county. Kings County might be interested to utilize the equipment in storage.

More information on the small gas engine restrictions.

No update at this time.

Yearly Meeting Calendar review and location for the next meeting.

Spring 2023

4/27/23, 1220 N St., Sacramento

Fall 2023

11/2/23, Irvine (South Coast Research Station) or Ventura County

Public Comment on Matters not on this Agenda

No public comments at this time.

Vertebrate Pest Conference report

No update still planning the 2024 conference. Early March in Monterey.

Revisit priority research topics. Possible projects to maintain bait labels.

No concerns at this time. Case open to not reevaluate Diphacinone.

USEPA Requirements

No issues at this time.

Future Action Items

No future action items. Open for any ideas for the next meeting.

ADJOURNEMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:39

am.David Kratville
Secretary to the Board