

# PRESS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

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## California Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program Environmental Impact Report Wins 2016 Environmental Excellence Awards

**Sacramento, California**—The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program (Statewide Program) Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has won two environmental excellence awards: a 2016 Award for NEPA Excellence from the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP); and a 2016 Outstanding Award in the Environmental Analysis Document category from the California Association of Environmental Professionals (CalAEP).

The PEIR was one of only nine programs and projects honored by NAEP for environmental achievement at its 2016 annual conference held April 11 to 14 in Chicago. The PEIR won the award in the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) Excellence category.

For CalAEP, the PEIR won an award as an Outstanding Environmental Analysis Document. The award was presented at the 2016 AEP State Conference in San Diego on April 4. The award recognizes the PEIR for its extensive statewide public outreach, its unique California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) tiering strategy that streamlines the application of pesticide permitting throughout the state of California, its comprehensive and exhaustive technical research, including ecological and health risk assessments, and its estimated \$3 million savings to CDFA in project-level environmental impact reports, plus protection measures for California's estimated \$1.8 billion citrus industry. The PEIR was one of five Outstanding awards given in this category; and additional five Merit awards were also awarded.

Launched in 2015, the CDFA Statewide Program is a comprehensive plan for the prevention and management of agricultural plant pests in California. The PEIR, prepared by Horizon Water and Environment, LLC, and Blankinship & Associates, Inc., evaluates all activities included under the Statewide Program, from promulgation of quarantine regulations to rapid-response eradication activities. The PEIR's CEQA tiering strategy allows CDFA to incorporate new technologies as they become available and adapt the program to future needs. Based on comprehensive human health and ecological risk assessments conducted as part of the PEIR analysis, the PEIR also provides for additional, science-based protections for agricultural workers and the environment.

For more information about the PEIR and the Statewide Program, including links for downloading the full document, visit CDFA's website at: <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/peir/>.

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*Horizon Water and Environment, LLC (<http://horizonh2o.com/>), based in Oakland, California, is a multidisciplinary environmental consulting firm that specializes in CEQA compliance, policy formulation and regulation development, resource planning and management, and environmental permitting. Blankinship & Associates, Inc. (<http://www.h2osci.com/>), based in Davis, California, specializes in the preparation of high-quality, comprehensive risk assessments that address the use of agricultural chemicals and pest management.*