

**California Pollinator Working Group Meeting
Webinar Agenda
Wednesday, February 19, 2014
1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.**

Location: CDFA, Room 133
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Contacts: Dr. Jason Leathers - (916) 654-0317
Duane Schnabel - (916) 654-0312

Welcome and Introductions

Duane Schnabel explained that this was not an open meeting and everyone in attendance was invited for the purpose of having a frank, open discussion about pollinator issues. Also, provided notice to participants that the webinar session was being recorded.

Presentations/Updates

1. Apiary Board update – Duane Schnabel, CDFA
 - a. *Board meets once per year and the meeting coincides with the California State Beekeepers Assoc (CSBA) annual conference. Today's workgroup in a part of the outreach recommended by the board. There were about 15 people in attendance at the board meeting in Lake Tahoe for the 2013 meeting last November. The board has 5 members and typically consists of 1-2 pollinators, 1-2 honey producers, 1 queen breeder. They are a policy driven group. There was an addition of 2 new members:*
 - i. *Harold Lauden*
 - ii. *David Bradshaw*

Action item: Per Jackie Park-Burris add "Buzz" to Harold and correct last name to Landon (Duane mentioned spelling of last name was from legal documentation supplied by member directly).
 - b. *Guidelines and protocol for bees on public lands is in the process of being worked on by Jackie Park-Burris*
 - c. *CDFA has been in contact with Fish and Wildlife staff member that involved with their public land planning process. There will be an invitation for the group to the semi-annual meeting where land management process will be discussed. This is a pilot project and Fish and Wildlife was chosen as they were the most receptive to the idea (Other organizations discussed were BLM, USFWS, State lands/parks/etc).*
 - d. *Support for a research facility for pollinator research in California.*
2. Bee Care tour update – Duane Schnabel, CDFA
 - a. *Bayer Bee Care tour – traveling through several states and ending up in Washington DC during June 15-23 for Pollinator Week. It was mentioned that the Bayer Bee Care tour was clearly an industry funded message.*

3. Border Station update – Duane Schnabel, CDFA
 - a. *Duane Schnabel gave an update specifying reduced hold times and reduction in overall rejections this year in comparison to last year. 50-60% of all shipments released within 4 hours, but some of the drivers were dropping their trucks off at the station and visiting relatives or getting DOT required sleep hours while the hives were being inspected so this was resulting in 12-24 hour releases in some cases. It was noted that having available water for bees at the border station was helpful.*

Action Item: Jackie Park-Burris asked about status of water lines needing to be buried at right-of-ways. Needs to be followed up with Roger Cline.

Action Item: Christi Heintz with Project Aphis m. requested a chart showing how many bee shipments go through each station.
4. DPR Pollinator Protection Labeling update – Ca. Dept. of Pesticide Regulation Representative
 - a. *The update was provided by Jill Townzen, Environmental Scientist at DPR. Additional bee labeling is required for the neonicotinoid products: Imadiclopid, Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin and Dinotefuran. Labeling changes are required for all products released after February 28, 2014.*
5. Tobacco Ring Spot virus – Dr. Jason Leathers, CDFA
 - a. *An update was given on the discovery of the Tobacco Ringspot Virus being discovered within bee populations. It is an important scientific find, but more research is needed to find out if it is a factor in CCD. Gabrielle Ludwig commented that she had spoken to the researcher at a meeting focused on varroa mite and was more concerned about the level of viruses associated with varroa mite infestations and varroa mite as a reservoir.*
6. Stingless bee detection in Palo Alto update – Dr. Jason Leathers, CDFA
 - a. *Discussion ensued regarding invasive pollinators and whether or not they are a concern for CDFA as a pest. CDFA Entomologists explained that the criteria for being a pest would be damage to our crops, public health, or if the bugs were carriers of other pests or diseases. There are some issues with stingless bees incorporating plant material into their nests and stealing nectar without pollinating flowers, but these were minimal.*
7. *Brachyepplus basalis*, pollen beetle update – Dr. Jason Leathers, CDFA
 - a. *Pollen beetles are associated with stingless bees, found in Solano, Orange and Shasta counties. They eat pollen within weak hives and are currently B-rated.*
8. Nick Condos asked industry about status of pollinators with the current drought and their predictions for the future.
 - a. *Christi Heintz (project Aphis) commented that they would write more about water usage into BMPs. For example, providing water close to hives in drought situations so that bees don't fly too far from crops they are working in search of water. A bigger issue is more diversity of forage and forage without pesticide.*
 - b. *Jackie Park-Burris commented that as a queen breeder, her concern in areas where there is chemigation, such as Oranges, that the only drink of water the queen gets is from the bees bringing the irrigation water back to her, so if there is chemical in it, she doesn't have a choice.*

9. Cal Trans right of ways were discussed and a question was raised about planting wildflowers versus traditional mowing.

Action Item: Gabrielle Ludwig requested more information regarding “fact vs fiction” on what Cal Trans and other agencies can and can’t do regarding pollinators. Such as what is required clearance and what is at their discretion.

Adjourn