



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT —
AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
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Oakland, California 94607-5200

November 9, 2023

California Environmental Protection Agency
Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street
P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Re: Department of Pesticide Regulation Draft 2024 Strategic Plan

To Whom It May Concern:

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Department of Pesticide Regulation's Draft 2024 Strategic Plan. I commend the Department on including action-oriented and measurable goals to guide priorities over the next five years. When fully implemented, the plan should provide significant benefits to California.

Recognizing and addressing climate impacts on pest pressures is critical to the future success of California agriculture. At the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, our UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program (UC IPM) works to develop the best science to identify and manage pests and provide professional trainings and education to producers, pest control advisors, and urban pest control professionals. For over 40 years, UC IPM has been California's source for data-driven, science-based pest management methods.

I commend the department on its goals to improve timeliness and transparency of science-based evaluation and registration of pesticide products, and to develop and implement a prioritization process for reviewing, identifying, and evaluating high-risk pesticides, and alternatives and mitigating measures for those high-risk pesticides. I also support goals to track, evaluate, and enforce safe pesticide use. Finalizing the target dates for implementation of the milestones for each of the goals will be important to the success of this plan.

I support the department's goals to foster collaboration and inclusivity by including diversity, equity, and inclusion commitments. I also support the goals to promote excellence and innovation. Innovations in pest management will occur more rapidly by inclusion of diverse perspectives, backgrounds, and knowledge to achieve the goals of the Sustainable Pest Management Roadmap.

Lastly, I am especially pleased to see an increase in sustainable pest management technical assistance and innovation, and increased grant funding to support projects and research. As part of a top research university in California, UC IPM has helped Californians (and others across the globe) adopt new

practices supported by extensive, multi-year educational efforts including pest management scientific presentations, demonstration site meetings, website how-to content, and printed materials. I encourage the Department to continue using UC IPM to serve in this research and educational role as you continue your vital work of regulating pesticides.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation Draft 2024 Strategic Plan will address current and future challenges to sustainable pest management throughout California by investing in science-based technical assistance and innovation and increasing resources to support projects and research. I respectfully request the department continue to work with academic partners and collaborators to achieve the goals in the Draft 2024 Strategic Plan, and I look forward to working together to implement these goals.

Sincerely,



Glenda Humiston
Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

CC: Brent Hales, AVP, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources
Jim Farrar, Director, UC ANR Integrated Pest Management Program
Cindy Kron, Chair, UC ANR Pest Management Program Team