

DPR funding for SPM Pilot Program – September 1, 2026

Background

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) will receive \$1 million per fiscal year (beginning in fiscal year 2025-2026) to fund SPM pilot and demonstration projects that promote and expand SPM adoption across California. The purpose of this funding is to support innovative work that carries out or facilitates SPM goals on the ground.

To date, SPM pilot funding has been awarded as contracts rather than grants, allowing DPR to play an active role in developing project scope and ensuring projects address specific departmental priorities. This program is separate from DPR's SPM Grants program. DPR has announced four projects thus far, with several more in various stages of development.

Administrative logistics

- SPM Demonstration funds are subject to state contracting requirements and competitive bid processes
- Limited exemptions exist for UC, CSU, and other public entities
- Subcontracting restrictions limit the ability of exempt entities to pass funds to nonprofits, community groups, or other partners
- Many projects will require their own separate competitive RFP and evaluation process

Projects

Announced

IPM and Pollinator Habitat Education in California Orchards (Miles Dakin, Pollinator Partnership)

- Develop resources including guides and videos to promote IPM in California orchard crops, emphasizing protection and preservation of pollinators and their habitats
- Conduct outreach events such as field days, an online continuing education course, and individualized technical assistance to growers

Establishing a Regional Decision Aid System for Navel Orangeworm in California Tree Nuts (Houston Wilson, UC Riverside)

- Develops a free, web-based decision aid system pest managers can use to anticipate the risk of navel orangeworm infestation in orchards

- Coordinates neighboring growers and PCAs and builds mutual trust with local communities to increase efficacy of IPM practices and reduce risks from pesticide use
- Prioritizes participation at the ag-urban interface and environmentally sensitive areas
- Offers participants discounted access to pheromone mating disruption

Empowering Small and Latino Farmers with Resources to Enhance Pest Management through Biodiversity Practices (Shelly Connor, Wild Farm Alliance)

- Develops workforce knowledgeable in SPM practices with a focus on outreach to small-scale and Latino California farmers
- Will host outreach events and create a podcast
- Offers SPM continuing education credits
- Promote SPM practices to enhance habitats for beneficial insects, birds, and soil microorganisms
- Conduct outreach events, develop a continuing education course, and produce/distribute bilingual outreach materials for small-scale Latino growers on the Central Coast and in the Central Valley who often face barriers to accessing technical assistance resources

Introductory Class on Sustainable Pest Management with a Needs Assessment and Feasibility Survey to Create a General Career Training Program Package (Holly Wright, Channel Islands Restoration)

- Creates inclusive, community-informed training materials that teach IPM tools and SPM concepts for wildland-urban interface corridor restoration
- Offers bilingual field classes and continuing education credits for college students, vegetation management professionals, and QAL/QAC holders
- Creates a publicly available, adaptable “Recommended Training Model” and promote it to educational institutions, employers, and community partners statewide

In development

Decision aid tool for veterinarians managing pests on pets

- Project concept with UC: develop an IPM decision support tool to help veterinarians recommend lower-risk flea and tick treatment alternatives for companion animals
- Pilot project in densely populated urban areas

SPM education and outreach for PCAs and policymakers

- Project concept: develop SPM continuing education credits through field demonstrations and an online course
- Project may include field demonstrations and outreach geared toward policymakers to increase their support for SPM

SPM schools, communities, and agricultural partnerships

- DPR is exploring project concepts through an RFP for counties in the Central Valley

SPM-grown food procurement project

- DPR is exploring project concepts with UC

Discussion questions for committee members

- What types of SPM projects should DPR fund? Some ideas for projects to focus on:
 - Active ingredients or products on DPR's Continuous Evaluation and Monitoring table
 - Emerging pest threats
 - Pest prevention
 - Pest management coordination between different landscapes, neighbors, and communities

Note: All projects should have an SPM focus.

- What are priority topics, communities, regions, etc., to fund?
- Should DPR fund fewer large-scale projects or several small-scale projects?
- Should DPR fund long-term or short-term projects?
- What factors should DPR consider and evaluate when we review project proposals?