



DEPARTMENT REPORT

December 2017

Agriculture

Draft Medical and Adult-Use Regulation and Safety Act (MAUCRSA) emergency regulations governing the cultivation of cannabis were [released](#) by CalCannabis in November. A [FAQ](#) sheet on these regulations is also available on the CalCannabis website. CDFA will be issuing 17 different types of cultivation licenses once the licensing program actually begins, which is still slated for January 1, 2018. County Agricultural Commissioners continue to discuss local responsibility for cannabis regulation enforcement with CDFA. A working group is currently looking at what inspections will entail, and development of an inspection form for this purpose.

The Inyo County Board of Supervisors will again discuss its draft cannabis zoning, business, and nuisance abatement ordinances on December 5. As currently proposed in the business license ordinance, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office would house the County Commercial Cannabis Permit Office.

CDFA continues to work to develop a track and trace system prior to January 1, 2018. Phase one is expected to be completed by then, with a track and trace system up and functioning that meets the minimum requirements. Enhancements to this system are expected in future phases. All commercial cannabis licensees in California will be required to use this system once it is up and running. Trainings have begun and continue into early December to teach commercial entities how to use the upcoming system.

For those of you that like interesting insects, we have a new invasive planthopper that we are watching out for in California, the [spotted lanternfly](#). This insect, recently found in Pennsylvania, is native to China, India, and Vietnam. It is a major pest of fruit trees, grapes, hardwoods, and redwoods.



Agriculture Legislation of Interest

[AB1687](#) – Pesticides: Use of Anticoagulants

This bill would expand the current list of pesticides defined as anticoagulants in the State of California, and would prohibit the use of such pesticides statewide in most cases outside of agricultural use. Anticoagulants are used extensively in rural areas such as ours for rodent control, and this bill would prohibit such use if not linked to agricultural production. Inyo and Mono Counties consistently lead the state in Hantavirus occurrence and illness, and record the presence of other rodent-borne illnesses such as plague every year.

This bill was initially presented as bill to amend regulations for Certified Farmers Markets, but was gutted and replaced with the current text.

Weights and Measures

State personnel will be in Inyo and Mono Counties soon to provide training on fuel quality sampling. Some of the concerns with regard to fuel quality that we test for include water contamination, sediment and suspended matter. Flash point is also checked in diesel fuels. Low flash point can cause diesel to combust too early which can lead to engine damage. On average, Inyo and Mono Counties respond to 5-10 consumer complaints about fuel quality each year. More information on this program can be found online [here](#).

Mosquito Abatement

Maintenance and repair of equipment continues as we prepare for next year. Staff will be back out in the field soon directing CalFire crews as a part of our willow reduction program, which is done each year to ensure access to mosquito breeding habitat in the summer months. The condition of our surveillance traps is being assessed and repairs made as needed. Staff recently submitted a preproposal for grant funding that would replace our invasive mosquito traps and this was accepted. We are awaiting instructions on how to submit a full proposal. These traps are tailored to be attractive to the invasive mosquitoes that carry Zika and other exotic diseases.

Most of our facts and figures surrounding the record 2017 runoff have been compiled at this point, and the process of compiling our annual report is underway. The 2017 report will feature a bit more information than has been included in prior years, including guidance for future high runoff years based on our difficulties and successes this last summer. This report should be completed by the end of January, and will be posted on our website at that time.



Exotic mosquito trap

Invasive Plant Management Program

Staff continues to work on winter projects such as equipment maintenance and repair, finding grant funding opportunities, and planning for next year. Many areas were flooded in 2017 that had invasive plants present in prior years, making access impossible. We expect to see increases in weedy populations due to those accessibility issues as well as probable new weedy populations due to seed dispersal via floodwaters.

Our department welcomes two, sort of new, employees into the weed management and mosquito programs. Scott Gadea, who worked the past nine summer seasons in the weed program, was the successful candidate for the open Field Technician position that will serve both programs. Scott has extensive experience finding and killing weeds from working in the summer for our department, and we are excited to have him on in a full-time capacity. We also recruited for a Program Coordinator recently, which was filled by Oliver Hardwick. Oliver worked for the Agriculture Department in the past as a biologist, and we are very happy to have him back on our team. The Program Coordinator position will also serve both the mosquito and weeds programs.

December Important Dates

December 5

Inyo BOS – Cannabis Ordinance

December 5

Mono BOS – Cannabis Hearing

December 14

Southern California Agricultural Commissioners
and Sealer's Meeting – San Diego

December 25

Office Closed – Christmas Day