



Monthly Update

Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office
October 2016

Agriculture

On September 30th the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) released [draft regulations](#) on agricultural pesticide applications near schools. The press release can be found [here](#). The draft regulations include 48 hour notification and buffer zones from 25 feet to 1/4 mile for pesticide applications, depending on application method, from 6:00a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or any other day when a school function is scheduled. The draft regulations also require producers near schools to send annual notifications explaining what pesticides they may use throughout the year. The comment period for these draft regulations extends until November 17. Final regulations will govern how and when pesticides can be used near schools, including daycare facilities. There is currently no additional funding proposed to counties to implement changes associated with the final passing of this regulation.

The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) has renewed its MOU with the US Forest Service. This MOU provides for cooperation in abating non-native plant infestations on Forest Service lands to help protect California's agricultural lands from invasion. This MOU requires Forest supervisors from all of the National Forests to meet with the local Agricultural Commissioner annually.

Agriculture Legislation of Interest

HR 2647 (Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015): This bill, which passed the house, now has similar legislation being introduced in the Senate. CACASA has sent a letter to the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry Committee chairman (Pat Roberts) highlighting the

lack of funding for invasive plant control in forests, as well as the unnecessary delay that the NEPA process can create in implementing invasive plant control projects.

Weights and Measures

Weights and measures work continues throughout the two counties. The livestock scales have all been certified for the year, and we will begin testing the more than 170 counter scales located from Walker to Tecopa again.

As the weather cools, our office tends to get calls regarding firewood deliveries. In California, all firewood must be sold by the cord unless in quantities less than 1/8 cord. A cord is equal to 128 cubic feet. When measured, firewood must be stacked compactly.

Another violation that is common with regard to firewood sales is inadequate information included on receipts, or a complete lack of a receipt whatsoever. If firewood is non-packaged (usually 1/8 cord or more), a receipt must be provided to the customer that has the seller name and address, the date, the quantity of firewood furnished and total selling price. Often, if a buyer calls our office and suspects they did not receive a full cord, they also did not receive a receipt. This makes it very difficult to follow up with the seller.

Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program

The "mosquito season" officially ended on October 1. Mosquito populations have dwindled to almost nothing as the weather cools. The program now shifts gears and will focus on repairing equipment, analyzing data, and planning for next years abatement activities.



Staff count and identify thousands of mosquitoes

The disease surveillance results from 2016 were all good news. Of the 33 sample pools submitted for West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis testing, none were positive.

OVMAP trapped extensively for non-native mosquito species throughout the 2016 season. The species of mosquitoes known to carry Zika, *aedes albopictus* and *aedes aegyptii*, were not detected in our area. More is being learned about these mosquito species every day, and mosquito districts across the state should be much more informed moving into 2017 on the spread of this mosquito and Zika

On September 29th, the President signed a [continuing resolution](#) to fund the federal government until December 3rd. This resolution included \$1.1 billion in funding for Zika.

Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

Field work continued on the third and final Pepperweed treatment of the year along the Middle Owens River. This is the Wildlife Conservation Board funded project area. With field work expected to wrap up the first week of October, the first season of an aggressive

five year Pepperweed treatment program will conclude.

Staff also visited and treated several small outlying populations of noxious weeds in various stages of eradication throughout Inyo and Mono Counties.

A well-attended meeting of the ESWMA was held on September 21 in Bishop. 11 agencies and groups sent 14 representatives for this meeting which included discussions about new weed discoveries and a platform for sharing weed information across all member organizations. Also on the agenda was the ongoing review of the ESWMA governing MOU and Strategic Plan.

The [25th California Invasive Plant Council Symposium](#) will be held this November 2-5 in Yosemite. The meeting agenda is packed with great speakers discussing a variety of invasive plant topics. There will also be demonstrations, such as how weed-free forage is inspected, on the first day of the symposium.

Important Dates:

October 7

Ag. Department Staff
Quarterly Meeting
8:30 a.m.

October 20

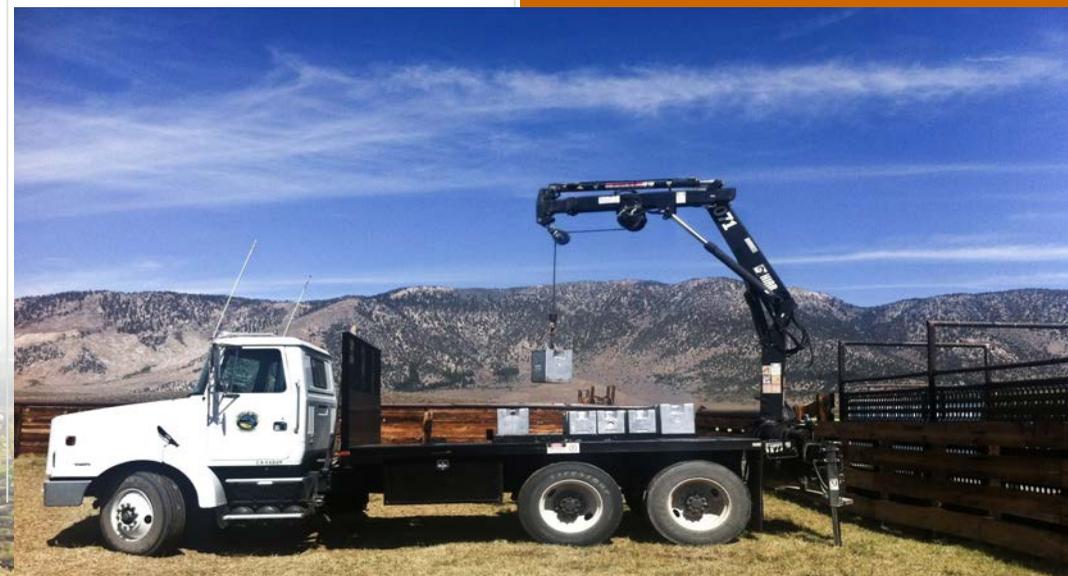
Southern California Agricultural
Commissioner and Sealers
Association Webinar

October 25

Monthly State Zika Conference Call

October 26

Vertebrate Pest Control Research
Advisory Committee Meeting
(San Luis Obispo)



Heavy capacity weight truck testing livestock scale

