

Protecting Surface Water from Pesticide Contamination in California. K S Goh, PhD, California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Sacramento, CA, USA. [email ID]@cdpr.ca.gov

The mission of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP) is to protect surface water from pesticide contamination caused by the use of pesticides in agricultural and urban environments. The program relies on both preventive and response processes to prevent adverse impacts of pesticide residues to humans and aquatic organisms. To achieve its mission, the program integrates the following key components: a) evaluation of pesticide products submitted for registration in California, b) monitoring of surface water and sediment for high use pesticides with high aquatic toxicity potential, c) modeling of fate and transport of pesticides to predict environmental concentrations and to assess environmental risks, d) evaluation of the effectiveness of best management practices to mitigate the offsite movement of pesticides, e) outreach to pesticide users to implement best management practices, and f) implementation of regulatory measures. To implement the program mission, our scientists and analytical chemists work collaboratively with pesticide registrants, county agricultural commissioners, State and Federal agency scientists, pesticide users, and university researchers.