

Max Ventura's 2/8/08 talk with CDFA rep:

Always preferring to get the dirt from the horses' mouths, I got on the horn this afternoon to call the public affairs office of CDFA, as some of you have.

I asked some very specific questions as people are asking me and Don't Spray California/ East Bay Pesticide Alert, via me.

Here are the responses from the (very nice) man who answered (916-654-0462). The director of the Public Affairs office is Steve Lyle (well, familiar to me via GWSS program). I do not believe this was Steve Lyle, but didn't get his name.

I asked, "Is there an overall CA workplan?"

A: "If there was one it would be front and center on the website. Let me check to see if anything shows up that I haven't gotten updated yet. The latest info in on a press release dated 1/22. As far as anything being posted soon, I don't know when updated."

I then told him I was from DSC and was getting inquiries for which I am trying to get answers. I asked him, "When was an emergency declared by the state, and when by the feds?"

He said, "What was your organization called?" I repeated. He said, "Again, I'd direct you to the website. I'm not sure if it's considered quote unquote an emergency but press releases would have a timeline." He then looked on the site saying he was using his employee backdoor version of the website as it's easier to find things (Hmm. Very interesting concept. Is CDFA intentionally hiding things away from the public?). He said to click on 'news', then 'press releases', then 2008.

Then I asked, "Who originated the call? How did this program get underway?"

He said, "Hmm – I'm really not sure necessarily." Then he said, "Do you mean USDA or CDFA?"

I replied, "Well, yes, or was it conventional growers, like with the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, who wrecked their soil; had problems; and then cried for a bailout?"

He said, "I'm sorry, I'm not able to answer. No one in my office can help you right now (in meetings) but I can deflect your call to the hotline." Then he suggested contacting and asking questions at lbam@cdfa.ca.gov.

I asked whether there is an accurate map on the site, with an accurate listing of each of the cities, counties, and unincorporated areas on the list to be sprayed. He said, "I'm not sure if there is or not. What's posted is what we know."

I asked, "Who is the doctor for CDFA for this program? Is it Peter Kurtz?" He replied, "I'm not sure. I'm trying to look on the website but I'm not seeing it."

Finally, I asked, "Who's the main point person in the office re: GWSS?" He said he was looking at a contact sheet and it said Bob Wynn. Same as in 2000.

This all from the person answering the phone of the public affairs office of CDFA. Either way, intentional or not, people not handy on computer or people homebound with MCS and frequent accompanying electrical sensitivity are left in the dust.

Totally unfair, at very least.

If intentional, it sure read like legal papers: For the 113th time, I don't remember.....

