

**Assembly Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials Committee
and
Senate Environmental Quality Committee**

2026 California Department of Pesticide Regulation Joint Oversight Hearing

Speaker Biographies



Chris de Nijs

President, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) and County Agricultural Commissioner, Nevada County

Chris de Nijs serves as the County Agricultural Commissioner and Sealer of Weights and Measures for the County of Nevada, a role he has held since 2017. With more than two decades in California's County Agricultural Commissioner system, he has built a career dedicated to protecting agriculture, consumers, and the environment through regulatory leadership and public service. He began his career as an Agricultural Biologist in Contra Costa County, later serving as Deputy Agricultural Commissioner in Stanislaus County before assuming his current position in Nevada County. A strong advocate for the statewide system, Chris now serves as President of CACASA.

Christopher Finarelli

Vice President, State Government Relations & Public Policy, Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA)

Christopher Finarelli is Vice President of State Government Relations & Public Policy for HCPA, where he leads the association's advocacy across the Western United States with an emphasis on California. He works at the intersection of public policy, regulation, and product stewardship, representing manufacturers of formulated household, commercial, and institutional products before the California Legislature and state regulatory agencies. Mr. Finarelli has worked extensively on pesticide registration fees, California's mill assessment, development of AB 2113, registration process improvements, and legislation affecting consumer and commercial pest management products. He has served on the California Pesticide Electronic Submission Tracking (CalPEST) Advisory Group and the Pest Management Advisory Committee (PMAC), providing stakeholder input to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) on regulatory and program implementation issues. Before joining HCPA, Mr. Finarelli spent more than a decade in senior policy and leadership roles in the California Legislature, including as a Chief of Staff and senior policy advisor.



**Angel Garcia**

Co-Director, Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR)

Angel Garcia became CPR's organizing director in 2020 and stepped into the role of co-director in 2022. A Tulare County native, Angel graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a B.A. in Latin American & Latino Studies and Politics. Angel is the founder of the Tulare County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety (CAPS), a local coalition focused on protecting community health and promoting safer agricultural practices. Outside of his professional work, Angel is the proud parent of three energetic boys, who keep him grounded, motivated, and deeply connected to the communities he serves.

Anne Katten

Director of the Pesticide and Work, Health, and Safety Project, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLAF)

Anne Katten is the Pesticide and Work Health and Safety Project Director at CRLAF, where she has worked for 35 years advocating for improved enforcement of existing requirements and policy changes to better protect farmworkers and communities from exposure to pesticides. She has a Masters in Public Health from UC Berkeley, with an Industrial Hygiene emphasis. Her work includes ongoing review of pesticide air monitoring and pesticide use data and health effects research, preparing technical comments on proposed regulations, and conducting oversight on pesticide illness investigations. She is a long-standing member of DPR's PMAC.

**Bianca Lopez**

Co-Founder and Project Director, Valley Improvement Projects (VIP)

Bianca Lopez is the Co-Founder and Project Director of VIP and a member of DPR's Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. She works alongside parents, farmworkers, schools, and public agencies to improve pesticide protections and strengthen community engagement in environmental decision-making throughout California's Northern San Joaquin Valley.

Timothy Malloy

*Frank G. Wells Endowed Chair in Environmental Law Emeritus,
University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law*

Timothy Malloy is a Professor of Law emeritus, having retired in July of 2026 after almost 30 years at UCLA School of Law. Prior to joining the UCLA faculty in 1998 he spent a combined 11 years in practice at private firms and at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), Region III. His research interests focus on environmental, chemical and pesticide policy, regulatory policy, and organizational theory and decision analysis, with particular emphasis on risk governance and prevention-based regulation. His research is heavily interdisciplinary, engaging with researchers in risk assessment, environmental science, decision analysis, toxicology, and business management. He previously served as a member of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Green Ribbon Science Panel, the US EPA Board of Scientific Counselors Subcommittee on Chemical Safety for Sustainability, and the California Process Safety Management Advisory Committee for the California Department of Industrial Relations.

**Ana María Mora**

*Associate Researcher, Center for Environmental Research and
Community Health (CERCH), University of California, Berkeley*

Dr. Ana María Mora is an Associate Researcher at CERCH in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, and a longtime investigator with the Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas (CHAMACOS) study. A physician and environmental epidemiologist, she studies how exposure to pesticides and other environmental chemicals during pregnancy and early childhood shapes children's growth, brain development, and long-term health, with a particular focus on the agricultural communities that carry the heaviest burden. Dr. Mora also served on the International Agency for Research on Cancer's working group developing the Latin America and Caribbean Code Against Cancer, sits on the editorial boards of leading environmental-health journals, and is the author of numerous peer-reviewed studies.

Karen Morrison

Director, California Department of Pesticide Regulation

Dr. Karen Morrison was appointed to Director of DPR by Governor Newsom on Feb. 13, 2025. Karen served as DPR's Chief Deputy Director and Science Advisor since 2022. Karen joined DPR in 2018 as a science advisor to the Executive Office and later became Deputy Director of the Pesticide Programs Division and Chief Science Advisor in 2019. Before joining DPR, Karen worked at the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery and the California Senate Environmental Quality Committee, and she served on the West Sacramento Environment and Utilities Commission. She has a Bachelor of Science in chemistry from Harvey Mudd College and a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

**Hanna Kahl**

Ecological Pest Management Senior Manager, Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF)

Dr. Hanna Kahl is the Ecological Pest Management Senior Manager at CAFF, an agricultural organization serving over 8,000 family-scale farmers in California. At CAFF, Dr. Kahl works on creating applied resources, organizing educational events, addressing pest management questions, and conducting agricultural research in collaboration with local farmers and pest control advisors. She is passionate about facilitating opportunities where farmers can share their knowledge and experience with each other, including recent work in walnuts, wine grapes, and small vegetable systems. Dr. Kahl currently serves on DPR's PMAC and served as lead for several applied research projects funded by DPR and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA); her latest project is focused on whole systems approach to pest management in stone fruit orchards. She received a masters in Entomology from University of Maryland and a Ph.D. in Entomology from UC Davis. Her previous research has focused on herbivory by earwigs in citrus, using living mulches to enhance beneficial insects, and the role of wolf spiders as cucumber beetle predators.

Taylor Triffo

Kahn, Sores & Conway (KSC), LLP on behalf of agricultural associations, pest professionals, and product providers

Taylor W. Triffo is managing director of legislative affairs at KSC, a firm representing a high volume of agriculture, equipment, retailer and water-related interests. For over a decade, Taylor has advocated for the interests of the food and agricultural sector. Prior to her time at KSC, she worked as a Senior Policy Advocate at California Farm Bureau Federation and held multiple positions at CDFA, including Assistant Secretary appointed under former Governor Edmund (Jerry) Brown Jr. Taylor earned her Bachelor of History Degree, Bachelor of Political Science Degree, and Master's Degree of Public Policy from California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California.

