

U.S. EPA Region 9 Pre-SFIREG Meeting Summary
Prepared by George Farnsworth, California Department of Pesticide Regulation
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On Tuesday, November 29, 2016, EPA Region 9 representatives of states, tribes and territories participated on conference call to discuss issues of mutual concern. Also in attendance were U.S. EPA Region 9.

Cannabis – The November elections resulted in approval of recreational use of Cannabis in California and Nevada but not in Arizona. California shared how it plans to proceed with the task of providing guidance on acceptable levels of pesticide residues and outreach to cultivators. Nevada has already been working with cultivators and providing assistance on pesticide use and Nevada hosted a Western States Cannabis meeting on November 29th. There was discussion on Special Local Need 24c registrations and general agreement that states should coordinate any submissions received.

Laboratory and inspection hours survey – in response to the request from Jeff Comstock (e-mail of September 12, 2016) Hawaii, Nevada and California updated the surveys. There was discussion and some concern over the proposal for a specific number of inspections in the work plans. The variation in the time and resources expended on inspections is significant and with the new revisions to the WPS, these variations cannot be estimated.

Post-election transition – Region 9 staff indicated that no immediate changes were anticipated and that in the past, changes at the Region usually were six months to a year after an election. The Region provided status updates on the Certification and Training rule, Pollinator Protection, and WPS.

Worker Protection Standard – A general conversation about when the shift from compliance assistance to enforcement would occur, with most indicating six months into the new year. Region 9 provided information on the PREP scheduled for April 24 – 28, in Portland.