Overview

Established in 1881, our Department protects consumers, ensures integrity in the marketplace, guards the health and safety of residents, and improves the quality of the environment through enforcement of federal, state and local laws and regulations. The variety of departmental services is unparalleled in other California counties.

Our programs provide leadership and direction in the successful early detection, exclusion, and eradication of dangerous, invasive insect and plant pests; enforcement of laws and regulations regarding safe pesticide use; operation of an environmental toxicology laboratory; clearance of weeds, brush, and debris from vacant lands to reduce fire hazards; inspection and verification of the accuracy of scales, meters, price scanners, and quantity labeling on packaged goods; and the operation of a metrology laboratory.

These programs protect the marketplace from unfair competition and diminished consumer confidence, shield consumers from fraud and resulting rises in food prices, protect the environment from unnecessary increases in pesticide applications and pesticide mishandling, and support the agricultural industry through minimizing pest control costs. Five Bureaus, described herein, directly provide these services.

Weights & Measures

(800) 665-2900

We are dedicated to ensuring that consumers receive the full weight, volume, count, or other measurement of commodities for which they pay. We regulate all petroleum fuel meters, utility submeters, odometers, taximeters, LPG meters, and all grocery, butcher, jewelry, postal, vehicle, luggage, and shipping scales. We test devices and order the removal of inaccurate devices from service until repaired and recalibrated. Inspectors perform undercover purchases at grocery and retail stores, gasoline stations, and recycling outlets to compare prices charged to advertized and shelf prices and to monitor appropriate use of scales and meters. We check packages for labeling and quantity accuracy.

The Metrology Laboratory has full recognition status from the National Institute of Standards and Technology/Office of Weights and Measures, enabling us to calibrate and certify commonly used mass and volume standards for the service industry and other regulatory agencies.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Department of Agricultural Commissioner / Weights & Measures

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June 2013

Department of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights & Measures

Protecting Consumers and the Environment since 1881

Environmental Protection

Agricultural Protection

Marketplace Integrity

Health and Safety

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Environmental Protection

(626) 575-5466

We enforce pesticide laws and regulations and detect exotic insect pests which threaten California agriculture. We also conduct and monitor exotic insect eradication activities.

The Agricultural Pesticide Regulation Division enforces laws and regulations to protect the public, pesticide applicators, farm workers, crops, and the environment from improper or unsafe uses of pesticides. Regulated applicators include: pest control operators, farmers, nursery specialists, maintenance gardeners, and government employees. We also compile and publish annual crop and livestock statistics.

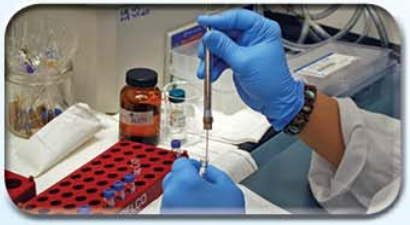
The Structural Pesticide Regulation Division enforces laws and regulations regarding pesticide use by hundreds of pest control companies operating within the county. We inspect thousands of termite fumigations and general pesticide applications. Worker safety training and safety equipment inspections are conducted annually.

The Pest Detection Division places and services over 24,000 insect traps annually to detect exotic insect pests which pose threats to California's agricultural and horticultural crops. When an infestation is detected, the division assists state and federal agencies in conducting activities to promptly and effectively eradicate these pests.

Environmental Toxicology Lab

(562) 622-0437

Established in 1973, this laboratory is a full service facility offering a wide range of services to a diverse array of industries, environmental engineers, government agencies, and the public. Services offered include environmental testing, sample collection, and analytical testing.



State-of-the-art instrumentation operated by highly skilled and experienced staff provides comprehensive analytical testing of water and solid material samples for over 500 substances. The lab is accredited by the State Department of Health Services to test drinking water, wastewater, hazardous waste, and agricultural products. The laboratory is also accredited for lead analyses in dust wipes, soil, and paint chips by the American Industrial Hygiene Association.

Pest Exclusion/Produce Quality

(562) 622-0426

We protect consumers, home gardeners, and agricultural producers by enforcing laws and regulations to prevent entry of insect pests and plant diseases and to maintain produce quality.

Pest Exclusion prevents entry and distribution of exotic insect and plant pests through regular inspections at airports, express carriers, post offices, nurseries, and truck deliveries. Nursery and Seed inspections monitor the cleanliness of nursery stock. Produce Quality inspections protect consumers from substandard quality and mislabeled or deceptively packaged fruits, nuts, vegetables, and eggs. Our Entomology/Plant Pathology Laboratory examines and identifies thousands of insect and plant specimens submitted annually by quarantine inspectors, pest control operators, and the public.

Weed Hazard & Pest Management

(626) 575-5462

We enforce laws and ordinances requiring the removal of weeds, brush, and debris from vacant properties in unincorporated areas and contract cities to protect the health, safety and property of our residents. We also strive to improve environmental quality by eliminating hazardous and invasive weeds, fire hazards and illegally dumped rubbish.

We also provide pest control services to reduce the spread of disease vectors and certain animal, weed, insect and disease pests detrimental to agriculture, landscaping, and the environment through efficient, biologically sound and environmentally responsible control methods.