



February 13, 2024

Structural Pest Control Board Regulation Program
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1500
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: Proposed Structural Pest Control Act Amendment to Section 1970.4

Dear SPCB Regulation Program Representative:

I am writing on behalf of the Pest Control Operators of California (PCOC) to express appreciation for the proposed amendments that the California Structural Pest Control Board (SPCB) are proposing to the §1970.4 in the Structural Pest Control Act. This section in combination with §8538 can be confusing as to what documents and timing of providing owners or occupants of a structure.

The PCOC is a 501(c)(6) non-profit association dedicated to protecting people, property and the food supply through environmental stewardship and advocacy. PCOC has served the business and educational needs of pest management professionals in California for over 80 years. Currently, the PCOC represents the interests of over seven hundred plus members that help generate over 3.4 billion dollars' worth of pest management economic activity in the Golden State. In fact, PCOC members account for over 80 percent of the state's total volume of pest control business.

The PCOC leadership and members appreciate the emphasis in the proposed regulation to increase clarity and conveniences for each branch of pest control licensed by the SPCB: Branch 1 (Fumigations), Branch 2 (General Household Pests), and Branch 3 (Wood Destroying Organisms). By separating Branch 1 fumigation notification requirements from Branch 2 and Branch 3, the revised regulations reduce the potential for confusion and/or misinterpretation thus giving more clarity to a particular Branch.

One significant issue that PCOC's leadership values the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule that adds 16 CCR § 1970.43 requiring that any death or serious injury related to pesticide application or use be reported immediately to the Structural Pest Control Board's office doing away with the confusing term "nearest" since there is only one SPCB office. This section also proposes to add the requirement that any death or serious injury related to pesticide application or use be reported to the County Agricultural Commissioner in the County where the application took place.

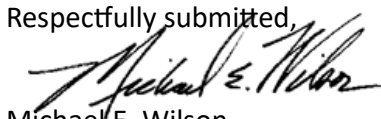
With these proposed modifications, it would also be helpful for SPCB to provide additional clarity to the process by articulating how the notification process should proceed in the event a death or serious injury which occurs afterhours, over a weekend/holiday or any other time when SPCB and/or County Agricultural offices would not be open.

PCOC representatives also welcome the additional clarity provided in §1970.41-42 specifically stating requirements at the onset of the agreement before the performed application along with post treatment site communication for a multi-unit building. The organization also welcomes the ability of pest management professionals to now communicate electronically with their customers post application without the requirement of leaving a physical paper notice. We agree that the communication of application details should reflect our customers' preferred option of contact. Today, professional pest management customers increasingly wish only to receive emails or texts about their application rather than the past paper requirement. The modification to the code now allows for that text/email option if the customer opts for it.

The PCOC recognizes that these amendments bring the post application for Branch 2 and 3 documentation communication in line with §8538 allowing electronic communication. We also recognize that the proposed amendments provide clarity in identifying the Branch 2 and 3 pesticide application communication in this section as §1970 is primarily a section addressing fumigation. The PCOC supports the amendments proposed for §1970.41-.42 and would encourage the SPCB to move forward in their adoption.

In conclusion, the PCOC leadership dedicates itself to cooperating with governmental agencies and the regulated industry to enhance safety and the quality of their operations for the betterment of all Californians. We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the proposed regulations. It is PCOC's belief that industry input is invaluable in shaping regulations that align with the best interests of California pest management industry and its residents. We look forward to our continued collaboration and engagement in the development of pragmatic regulatory requirements.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Wilson

CEO