



# Monthly Update

Counties of Inyo and Mono Agricultural Commissioner's Office  
September 2016

## Agriculture

Medical marijuana cultivation continues to be discussed both locally as well as throughout California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is identified in legislation as the agency responsible for the licensing of cultivation sites. Inspections of these sites will almost certainly fall to county Agriculture Departments. CDFA recently conducted a survey to determine interest in the various licenses to be issued pursuant to the Medical Cannabis Regulation and Safety Act. These licenses include not only cultivation, but also transportation, manufacturing, testing, distributing, and dispensary. License descriptions can be found on the first page of the [CDFA cultivation FAQ](#).

Mono County had 12 potential licensees respond, half of which were for cultivation. Cultivation licenses for 1A, 1B, 3, and 3B types were indicated in the survey as being sought after in Mono. These license types include small specialty sites with both indoor and outdoor represented, and medium-sized indoor and outdoor sites.

Inyo County had 43 responses, with about 75% of these responses being for cultivation license types. Responses included interest in all cultivation license types, including indoor and outdoor, and small to medium sized.

Full Survey results can be found in Excel format by clicking on [this link](#). Inyo and Mono represented only .2% of responses. Statewide, Los Angeles County led the way with over 2,700 responses, about 25% of which were for cultivation sites of 10,001 to 22,000 square feet.

## Weights and Measures

The importance of our ongoing survey for credit card skimmers during inspections of retail fuel meters became more apparent during a recent attempted installation of one of these devices in Lone Pine. The Sheet wrote [an article](#) on this incident, that can be found on page 8 of the 8/13/2016 edition.

This same gas station had been inspected a few weeks prior to the attempted installation. At the time, there was no skimmer in the dispenser, but inspection staff explained to the station owner why we were inspecting for these devices and how they work. Later that month, he owner witnessed individuals attempting to access his pumps. The owner chased them off and called law enforcement.

Interestingly, when they were questioned by a customer the suspects claimed to be registered service agents. To prevent fraud, any repairs or adjustments to commercial weighing and measuring devices are allowed only to be made by either the owner of the device with county staff observing, or by a California registered service agent. The County Weights & Measures Department regulates these service agents. Whenever any adjustments are made, our office receives notification and we have the option to recheck the work of the service agent to ensure accuracy.

Hopefully the concerted efforts of our office and law enforcement, as well as vigilance from our local businesses will send the message to identity thieves that we are watching out for consumers in Inyo and Mono Counties. We will continue to conduct random inspections for these devices. [AB 2307](#), which was written to help combat skimming devices, has passed the state senate and assembly and is waiting to be signed by the Governor.

## Owens Valley Mosquito Abatement Program

Ten mosquito pools were submitted for West Nile Virus testing in August, all returned negative. Mosquito pool testing will continue through the end of the season, usually October 1<sup>st</sup> when cooler weather arrives.

A hatch along the Owens River occurred starting with increased water flow on July 24<sup>th</sup>. When the water level was increased, ancient oxbows along the river were flooded either from the overflowing river or by water percolating to the surface. This flood water event triggered the hatching of billions of dormant eggs from the Aedes melanion species. These oxbows are very numerous and it is cost and resource prohibitive to control the billions of mosquitoes that are produced during such an event.

Management during these outbreaks includes making targeted adulticide applications to reduce the numbers of these mosquitos that reach populated areas. Fogging was conducted early in the month along the river to reduce the emerging populations and discourage them from coming to town for a meal. Recently, we have had to fog in both Bishop and Big Pine to control the hordes of mosquitoes. We still have large numbers of mosquitoes being found at the Bishop Golf Course, north Bishop in the Dixon Ln. area, and much of Big Pine.

The river level has dropped and the temperatures remain around 100 degrees. This should dramatically slow the breeding of mosquitoes and kill any left with the extreme heat.

New traps used to survey for invasive, non-native mosquito species were loaned to OVMAP by the State for district surveillance.

We have placed these in Bishop, Big Pine, Independence and Lone Pine.



Rob Miller of OVMAP hangs a new type of mosquito trap that targets Zika carrying species

The Fay/ Prince trap uses a black light and CO2 gas to attract mosquitoes that do not normally attract to our EVS type traps. We spot trap with this portable surveillance tool. BG Sentinel traps were also lent by the State Health Dept. to help survey for invasive species. Both of these traps should help us identify new species that may want to call the Owens Valley home and provide time to respond to their presence.

## Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area

Field staff continues to work daily on the Middle Owens River Pepperweed eradication project, with a second circuit of the project area nearly complete.

The Inyo Water Department completed the Lower Owens River Rapid Assessment Survey and identified a few new noxious weed sites that will be promptly investigated. Crews have been treating known populations on the LORP throughout the summer.

A handful of isolated Pepperweed sites were treated throughout Inyo and Mono counties from the Walker River to Lone Pine. It is important that these sites are managed before they become established. Once established, it can take more that 20 years to eradicate this plant.

Staff also investigated complaints of an invasive aquatic weed in Gull Lake. A sample was sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture for positive identification as *Myriophyllum sibiricum*, a potentially weedy native species. We are working with our partner agencies to establish a management plan.

## Important Dates:

### September 1-4

Tri-County Fair  
*Come by and see our display in the Charles Brown Auditorium!*

### September 5

Office closed in observance of Labor Day

### September 6

Inyo County BOS Budget  
Mono County BOS Budget

### September 19

CACASA Board of Directors Meeting—Stockton

### September 21

ESWMA Meeting—Bishop