

**Notice of Intent to adopt a Negative Declaration for  
a proposal to introduce a non-native bumblebee, *Bombus impatiens*, into  
the agro-ecological system of the state of California for crop pollination.**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has prepared and intends to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed introduction of a non-native bumblebee, *Bombus impatiens*, into the agro-ecological system of the state of California for crop pollination in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. CDFA is the lead agency for the project under CEQA.

**Description of the Proposed Project:**

The proposed project consists of a request for a permit to allow the introduction of the non-native bumblebee *Bombus impatiens* as a pollinator for fruit, nut and vegetable crops in the state of California. Source of *Bombus impatiens* and all constituents is Koppert Biological Systems, State of Michigan. The timing of introduction would be from weeks 3 through 22 of the calendar year. Pollination duration in the field would be for a maximum of 5 weeks.

**Project Location:**

Introductions would be exclusively south of 39° latitude in agricultural areas, specifically the following counties: Yolo, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, Stanislaus, Merced, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare, San Luis Obispo, Kern, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, Riverside, San Diego and Imperial. (see map below)

**Public Review Period:**

The Negative Declaration and Initial Study are being circulated for public review and comment as required by the State CEQA Guidelines for a period of 30 days starting December 21, 2006 and ending January 19, 2007. Written comments on either the adequacy of the environmental information and/or the merits of the project must be submitted no later than January 19, 2007 to the following address:

Mr. Jim Rains  
California Department of Food and Agriculture  
1220 N, Street Room A-316  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 651-9371

Copies of the Negative Declaration and Initial Study may be obtained at the address and/or contact shown above and are also available for review at this address Monday through Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. The documents can also be accessed at the following web site:

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/pe/bees.htm>

No public meetings and/or workshops are planned at this time for this project. Appropriate public notice will be provided if any are subsequently scheduled during the public review period.

