

# GMOs: California Regulatory Issues

*Tobi Jones, Ph.D.*

*California Department of Pesticide Regulation*

## **State Policies on Biotechnology**

- Formulated in mid-1980's
- Examined Federal Coordinated Framework
- Used existing state laws

## **Microbial Pesticides**

- Ice Minus (AGS) was early test of procedures (1987)
- DPR uses advisory committee to discuss
- Registering engineered BT drew no attention (1994)

## **Transgenic Plants**

- Pest protected plants
- Herbicide tolerant plants
- Other traits: quality, nutrition, health enhancements, fine chemicals
- CDFA, USDA permits may apply before commercialization

## **Plant Pesticides**

- DPR currently not requiring registration
- Awaiting final federal rule, clarification on labeling, data requirements
- State continues to evaluate roles, issues
- FIFRA 25(b) exemptions need close attention

## **Herbicide Tolerant Plants**

- DPR uses same principle as EPA:
  - Regulate herbicide, not plant
- Appropriate tolerances and labels needed
- Worker protection measures may apply
- DPR watching federal approaches to herbicide resistance closely

## **California Issues**

- Concerns of organic farmers: contamination of organic crops by GMO pollen
- Potential legislation/initiative to require food labeling
- Receptiveness of export market to GMOs