



California Weed Science Society Honorary Member – 2010

**J. Robert C. Leavitt
California Department of Food and Agriculture**

Robert Leavitt has been nominated by the Nominations Committee and approved by the Board of Directors to become an Honorary Member of the California Weed Science Society at the 62nd annual conference. Robert was selected because of his distinguished service to the society as President in 2006, for his frequent service on the program, in addition to his service in various other capacities to the society for many years.

Robert has a long history as a weed scientist. He took his first weed science course at BYU in 1974, was Graduate Student of the Year at UA in 1975, and was honored with the Sigma Xi research of the year award for herbicide research when he received his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in 1978. His work history included a three year period (1978-1980) as an Assistant Professor at the University of Nebraska. This was followed by a 19 year (1980-1999) career with DuPont Company as a development scientist. He started with the State of California in 2000, first with DPR, then moving to CDFA where he is Assistant Director of the Plant Health Division. He is currently in charge of all weed, insect, plant disease control and eradication programs.

Robert has an active position. He was Operations Section chief for the California Quagga Mussel Incident Command Response Team in 2007; served on the Idaho State Blue Ribbon Commission on Aquatic Weeds in 2007; was Executive Secretary of the Light Brown Apple Moth Environmental Advisory task Force in 2008-2009; is Acting Executive Director of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee and is President of the Western Aquatic Plant Management Society. He has been a PCA since 1991, is a Silver Level Toastmaster, and Precinct inspector for Placer County Department of Elections since 2000.