



## ***News Release***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Examination of New Agroterrorism Threats, Lessons Learned Kick Off Opening Day of Disaster Resistant California Conference**

SACRAMENTO – An examination of the terrorist threat to California’s agriculture industry and lessons learned by state agricultural officials highlight Monday’s opening session of the fifth annual Disaster Resistant California Conference.

Sponsored by the Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (OES) and the Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation (CDM), the three-day conference at the Hyatt Regency will help emergency managers from government and private-sector organizations throughout California and the world in their efforts to reduce deaths, injuries and property losses in future disasters through professional development courses, demonstrations of technological innovations and lessons learned by colleagues in the Sumatra tsunami, the 2003 Southern California wildfires and the Columbine shootings.

“Monday’s featured discussion on agroterrorism has significant implications for Californians and the nation,” said OES Director Henry Renteria. “Although the 78,500 farms operating in California in 2003 represented less than four percent of the farms in the country in 2003, the \$27.8 billion in sales of crops and livestock they generated accounted for 13 percent -- a significant percentage -- of the country’s gross receipts from agriculture. Protecting this industry from terrorism is critically important to California, the nation and the world.

During Monday afternoon’s keynote address, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary A.G. Kawamura, State Veterinarian Richard Breitmeyer, DVM and MPVM, as well as CDFA Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Pat Minyard will discuss the threat, its potential impact, efforts to reduce those impacts and resources available to local emergency planners through the agency and California’s agricultural industry.

Breakout sessions featured during the conference’s opening-day session offer attendees the opportunity to learn about the tsunami risk in California, the latest trends in flood management, meeting the needs of special populations and other issues from experts in their respective fields.

The conference is partially funded by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and sponsorships. For more a complete schedule, visit [www.oes.ca.gov](http://www.oes.ca.gov), and click DRC in the right column.

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