



Update on Oxitec's 2023 California Plans

Issued: 11 May, 2023

Summary

Due to timing considerations, Oxitec is voluntarily withdrawing its current Research Authorization (RA) application to carry out a field pilot of its Friendly™ *Aedes aegypti* solution in California in 2023. The timing associated with the evaluation by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) will preclude the deployment of a field pilot in the 2023 mosquito season, and thus a new application for future mosquito seasons will be submitted.

Oxitec will continue its pursuit of approval to serve Californians with its Friendly™ *Aedes aegypti* solution, an alternative to the use of conventional pesticides, for future field seasons. Oxitec will also continue to carry out public engagement and education efforts, stakeholder engagement, and other outreach efforts throughout the state.

Key Information

- Oxitec's Friendly™ *Aedes aegypti* solution was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for pilot programs in Florida, Texas and California.
- Following invitations from ten local mosquito control districts in California, in March 2022 Oxitec applied to DPR for a RA permit to conduct field pilots in partnership with Delta Mosquito and Vector Control District ("Delta") in Tulare County, California.
- Given timelines associated with DPR's review, which has not been finalized, Oxitec and its local partner, Delta, have determined that a field pilot in 2023's mosquito season will not be possible.
- Oxitec is, therefore, voluntarily pausing this specific application and will re-submit for mosquito seasons in the near future. Oxitec's 2023 focus will now be on a third *Aedes aegypti* pilot season in Florida, in partnership with the Florida Keys Mosquito Control District.
- Oxitec will continue to carry out public outreach and education in relation to the value that biological pest control solutions can offer to California's pursuit of new pest control solutions in the face of rising pest pressures and increasing chemical pesticide resistance, and its efforts to reduce chemical pesticide use generally.

Next Steps in California

Oxitec will re-submit its application for field pilot authorization to DPR for coming mosquito seasons. In the meantime, Oxitec will continue to work with its local partners and stakeholders on outreach, education and public engagement efforts throughout the state.

About Oxitec

Oxitec is the leading developer of biological solutions to control pests that transmit disease, destroy crops and harm livestock. Founded in 2002 at the University of Oxford, Oxitec is led by a passionate team comprised of 15 nationalities and is supported by world-class public, private and non-profit partners.



About *Aedes aegypti*

The invasive mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*, is now confirmed to have established in 25 counties within the state of California and continues to spread. It brings with it the potential for diseases of public health concern, including dengue fever and Zika.

Additional Resources

- The Delta MVCD-Oxitec Mosquito Project [website](#).
- Oxitec's [Public Educational Webinars](#) and other video content.
- EPA's approval and Human and Environmental Health [Risk Assessment](#) of the pilot project.
- EPA's [responses to public comments](#).
- Latest peer-reviewed [scientific publication](#) dedicated to Oxitec's *Aedes aegypti* solution.
- 100+ independent peer-reviewed [scientific publications](#) on Oxitec technology.
- Oxitec's [announcement](#) of up to 96% *Aedes aegypti* suppression in Brazil.

Questions, Comments and Feedback

We welcome inquiries from all stakeholders. Please do not hesitate to get in touch via the contact details below.

Email: info@oxitec.com

Website: oxitec.com

Oxitec media inquiries

Email: press@oxitec.com

Call: +1-202-792-3080