STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Budget Change Proposal - Cover Sheet

DF-46 (REV 03/25)

Fiscal Year	Business Unit Number	Department
2026-27	4265	California Department of Public Health

Hyperion Budget Request Name	Relevant Program or Subprogram
4265-075-BCP-2026-GB	4045059 – Environmental Health

Budget Request Title

Food and Beverage Products (AB 660)

Budget Request Summary

The California Department of Public Health requests 2 positions and $369,000 in 2026-27 and ongoing from the Food Safety Fund to implement provisions required by Assembly Bill 660 (Chapter 911, Statute of 2024) to address food labeling regarding quality and safety, by eliminating the words "sell by" on packaging, and allowing only "best if used by" and "use by".

Requires Legislation (submit required legislation with the BCP)	Code Section(s) to be Added/Amended/Repealed
☐ Trailer Bill Language ☐ Budget Bill Language ☒ N/A	Amend sections 36004 and 82001 of the Food and Agriculture Code and to amend section 114057.1 of the Health and Safety Code

Does this BCP contain information technology (IT) components? ☐ Yes ☒ No *If yes, departmental Chief Information Officer must sign.*	Department CIO	Date
	N/A	N/A

For IT requests, specify the project number, the most recent project approval document (FSR, SPR, S1BA, S2AA, S3SD, S4PRA), the approval date, and the total project cost.

Project No. N/A **Approval Date:** N/A

Project Approval Document: N/A **Total Project Cost:** N/A

If proposal affects another department, does other department concur with proposal? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Attach comments of affected department, signed and dated by the department director or designee.

Prepared By	Date	Reviewed By	Date
Mónica Nelson	7/7/2025	Phuong La	7/21/2025
Department Director	**Date**	**Agency Secretary**	**Date**
Rita Nguyen	8/7/2025	Julie Souliere	8/29/2025

Department of Finance Use Only

Additional Review: ☐ Capital Outlay ☐ ITCU ☐ FSCU ☐ OSAE ☐ Dept. of Technology

Principal Program Budget Analyst	Date submitted to the Legislature
Nina Hoang	1/10/2026

A. Problem Statement

Assembly Bill (AB) 660 (Chapter 911, Statutes of 2024) introduces new food labeling requirements for manufacturers, processors, and retailers, effective July 1, 2026. Labels must

now use "best if used by" to indicate quality and "use by" to indicate safety, replacing the term "sell by" and other similar terms. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is tasked with enforcing these provisions but currently lacks the resources to reach compliance through oversight, inspection, and investigation. While the new labeling terms aim to reduce consumer confusion, educational efforts and guidance dissemination will be necessary.

CDPH holds regulatory authority over food products, manufacturing, and retail under the California Retail Food Code (CRFC), part of the California Health and Safety Code (HSC). The CRFC, primarily enforced by 62 local environmental health regulatory agencies, outlines requirements for retail food facilities, with CDPH providing technical support, including training, investigations, and compliance efforts.

To effectively enforce AB 660, CDPH requires additional positions and funding. Without these resources, confusion over labeling terminology will persist, potentially increasing public health risks from unsafe food consumption. Clear distinctions between "best if used by" for quality and "use by" for safety will benefit consumer health and reduce food waste.

Previous legislation, AB 954 (Chiu, Chapter 787, 2017), addressed food waste by encouraging standardized date labeling with "best if used by" and "use by" terms, though it did not require their use. AB 954 provided guidelines for food freshness and safety labels.

B. Justification

AB 660 introduces new responsibilities for CDPH. These include creating educational materials to help the industry comply with the bill, inspecting firms for adherence to food safety laws and new labeling standards, verifying corrective actions, and providing support to resolve compliance issues and address complaints.

CDPH requests $369,000 annually to fund two positions and lease one vehicle:

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist): Respond to industry questions, create educational materials, and assist field staff with technical issues.
- Environmental Scientist: Conduct inspections, verify compliance, and provide information to help the industry meet new requirements and resolve complaints.

Dedicated staff are needed to manage the increased workload, assist with technical inquiries, conduct inspections, respond in a timely way to complaints, and develop training. With requested resources, CDPH can support industry adherence to new laws, reduce food waste, and prevent misleading food labels.

C. Departmentwide and Statewide Considerations

This proposal aligns with CDPH's 2024 Strategic Map, which outlines the organization's mission, vision, and strategic direction by:

- Becoming a learning and impactful organization. CDPH is committed to continuous improvement and community engagement to protect and enhance population health and health equity.
- Food labeling provides consumers with clear and consistent information about the quality and safety of the products they purchase and consume. Confusion between "use by" and "best if used by" dates is common.
- The "Use By" date indicates the last date recommended for consuming perishable items, such as meat and dairy, at their peak quality.
- The "Best If Used By" date suggests that the product will have the best flavor by this date. It can still be consumed after this date but may not retain optimal taste. This label is more concerned with quality than safety.

- AB 660 requires the elimination of any other terms on food packaging, which will help reduce food waste as compliance increases because consumers will no longer discard food that remains safe to eat even if it has passed the optimal taste or texture period. Food labeling policies significantly impact public health and health equity outcomes, saving money for households, including those in disadvantaged communities. AB 660 supports CDPH's public health priorities by promoting healthy behaviors through education, community engagement, and enhancing community health.

D. Outcomes and Accountability

CDPH will be able to provide consistent and comprehensive support to industry and consumers by confirming compliance with the new statute and raising awareness about food safety, food waste, and food labeling. Understanding the difference between the "best if used by" quality term and the "use by" safety term will also help consumers make educated choices when purchasing food and beverage items. Additionally, as compliance is achieved over time, an anticipated outcome is a decrease in the number of complaints to investigate.

Projected Outcomes

Workload Measure	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31
Conduct inspections of firms	N/A	55	66	79	87	104
Investigate complaints	N/A	32	16	8	4	2
Call/E-mail volume/education communication	N/A	375	337	304	273	246

E. Implementation Plan

AB 660 would go into effect on July 1, 2026.

Estimated Dates	Activity
October 2024 – July 2026	Document any inquiries regarding AB 660 using the standard Food and Drug Branch (FDB) processes. Individuals will be contacted by current staff to provide quality customer service. Members of the public may not be aware of the effective date of July 1, 2026, or may be industry partners looking for guidance.
February 2026 – June 2026	Initiate, advertise, and complete hiring process for Environmental Scientist and Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist). Utilize standard hiring practices for Scientist positions.
July 2026 - August 2026	Onboard newly hired staff. Newly hired staff will take on and continue to document inquiries regarding AB 660 and will begin to review complaints. Complaints will be handled per current FDB complaints procedures and include data entry, review, and investigation as needed. New hires will be trained (as noted below) on the new requirements of this bill for the purposes of inspections and compliance activities in addition to the inquiries/complaints.

September 2026 – November 2026	1. Initiate investigative work in response to complaints. Inspection staff will implement AB 660 during labeling reviews during food safety work. 2. Guidance document summarizing AB 660 requirements will be generated and posted to the CDPH website and shared with regulatory partners and industry. 3. Training course for CDPH staff conducting work associated with AB 660 will be developed and approved by management.
December 2026	AB 660 training course for CDPH staff will be presented.
January 2027 – July 2027	CDPH staff will review all complaints/inquiries and update publicly posted material regarding AB 660.
January 2027 - ongoing	Continue to: - Certify firms' adherence to the food safety laws and regulations and compliance with the new requirements (new labeling standards). - Conduct verification that firms applied adequate corrective actions to be compliant. - Respond to industry questions to help achieve compliance with new laws and regulations, resolve labeling compliance issues, and act on complaints. - Aid field staff and local environmental health department staff in need of technical assistance regarding affecting food products. - Periodically update training course intended for staff based on feedback and offer the enhanced version as a refresher training on an as needed basis.

F. Supplemental Information

Attachment A: Fiscal Detail Sheet
Attachment B: Workload Analysis
Attachment C: Current Organizational Charts
Attachment D: Proposed Organizational Charts

BCP Fiscal Detail Sheet

(Dollars in Thousands)

BCP Title: Food and Beverage Products (AB 660)

BR Name: 4265-075-BCP-2026-GB

Budget Request Summary

Personal Services

Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Positions - Permanent	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**
Earnings - Permanent	0	186	186	186	186	186
Total Salaries and Wages	**$0**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**
Total Staff Benefits	0	99	99	99	99	99
Total Personal Services	**$0**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**

Operating Expenses and Equipment

Operating Expenses and Equipment	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5301 - General Expense	0	12	12	12	12	12
5302 - Printing	0	4	4	4	4	4
5320 - Travel: In-State	0	26	26	26	26	26
5322 - Training	0	2	2	2	2	2
5342 - Departmental Services	0	28	28	28	28	28
5368 - Non-Capital Asset Purchases - Equipment	0	12	12	12	12	12
Total Operating Expenses and Equipment	**$0**	**$84**	**$84**	**$84**	**$84**	**$84**

Total Budget Request

Total Budget Request	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Budget Request	**$0**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**

Fund Summary

Fund Source

Fund Source	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
State Operations - 0177 - Food Safety Fund	0	369	369	369	369	369
Total State Operations Expenditures	**$0**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**
Total All Funds	**$0**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**

Program Summary

Program Funding

Program Funding	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
4045059 - Environmental Health	0	369	369	369	369	369
Total All Programs	**$0**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**	**$369**

Personal Services Details

Positions

Positions	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
0762 - Environmental Scientist (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
0765 - Sr Envirnal Scientist (Spec) (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total Positions	**0.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**

Salaries and Wages

Salaries and Wages	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
0762 - Environmental Scientist (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0	79	79	79	79	79
0765 - Sr Envirnal Scientist (Spec) (Eff. 07-01-2026)	0	107	107	107	107	107
Total Salaries and Wages	**$0**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**	**$186**

Staff Benefits

Staff Benefits	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
5150900 - Staff Benefits - Other	0	99	99	99	99	99
Total Staff Benefits	**$0**	**$99**	**$99**	**$99**	**$99**	**$99**

Total Personal Services

Total Personal Services	FY26 Current Year	FY26 Budget Year	FY26 BY+1	FY26 BY+2	FY26 BY+3	FY26 BY+4
Total Personal Services	**$0**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**	**$285**

Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Environmental Scientist
1.0 Position

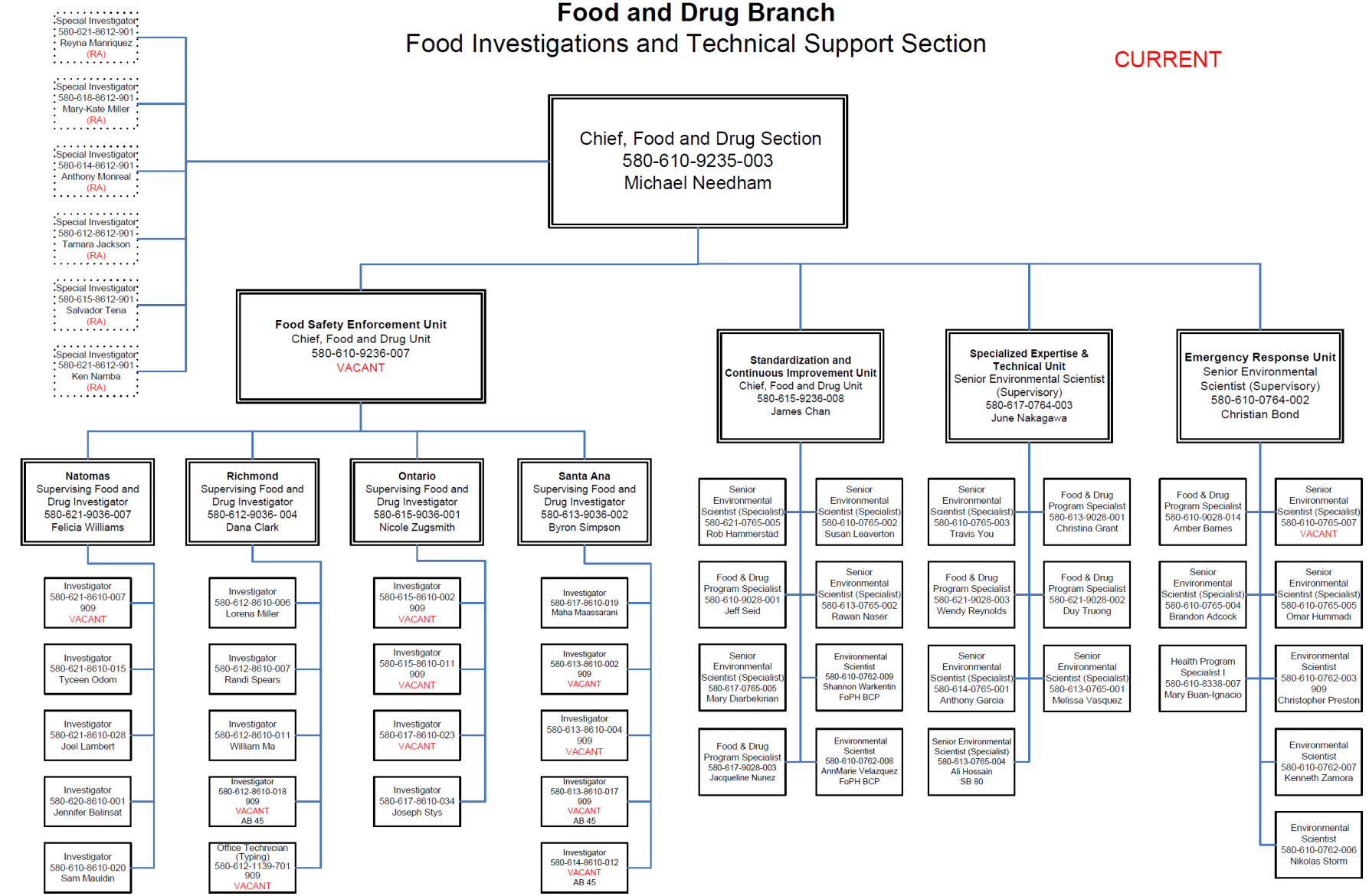
Activity	Number of Items	Hours per Item	Total Annual Hours
Conduct inspections of firms (responsible for the labeling of food) manufacturing, packing, holding, and distributing food products to certify adherence to the food safety laws and regulations and compliance with the new requirements – new labeling standards.	55	25	1375
Evaluate the efficacy of food safety control measures implemented by new and existing firms manufacturing, packing, holding, and distributing food products. This includes checks on firms' adherence to new labeling requirements, and verification that firms applied adequate corrective actions to be compliant. Provide information and answer questions from the affected industry to help achieve compliance with new laws and regulations, resolve labeling compliance issues, and take action on complaints.	25	6	150
Plan inspections of firms (responsible for the labeling of food) manufacturing, packing, holding and distributing food products to identify which need to be inspected to certify adherence to the food safety laws and regulations and the new requirements.	41.5	2	83
Process paperwork generated from the manufacturing inspections including: writing and submitting reports, embargoes, and Notices of Violations.	51	3	153
Process and secure evidence, as needed and including labels, in compliance with the program's procedures. Certify proper chain of custody is being maintained. Deliver evidence to the district supervisor.	39	1	39
Total hours for workload projected for this classification			**1,800**
1,800 hours = 1 Position			
Actual number of Positions requested			**1.0**

Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
1.0 Position

Activity	Number of Items	Hours per Item	Total Annual Hours
Conduct critical and/or sensitive inspections and investigations of food processors, manufacturers and retail facilities. Document and report findings to staff including Supervisors and Managers. Work closely with Environmental Scientists, Supervisors, and Managers regarding inspectional findings regarding food labeling.	32	25	800
Prepare guidance, policy and planning for the program to assist industry with becoming compliant with the provisions of AB 660. Develop and continue to update a "frequently asked questions" document that will be posted to the CDPH website. Work with program management and house counsel to confirm answers are accurate and represent the program effectively.	1	400	400
Independently identify problems, develop courses of action for food processors, manufacturers, and retail food facilities. Develop written responses appropriate for retail food facilities and food manufacturers focused on compliance. Process and review inspection reports associated with this regulatory work to identify areas of improvement.	100	1	100
Educate and train new staff regarding food labeling requirements, so that they can assist industry with the provisions of the bill Develop written and electronic materials to be presented in-person and virtual. Virtual course will be recorded for future use with new staff. Assure all staff are trained per Manufactured Food Regulatory Program Standards.	1	180	180
Act as a consultant to other program staff and management. Provide guidance on frequently asked questions and conduct the research needed to answer more technical questions associated with AB 660. Provide support as needed to others in the program when input is needed for additional training topics related to labeling.	80	2	160
Work with industry, stakeholders and consumers. Respond to industry and stakeholder requests for public presentations regarding AB 660 and these specific labeling requirements. Present at public meetings regarding CDPH's implementation of AB 660 with management approval. Work as the subject –matter expert for the program once questions are received from stakeholders such as the United States Food and Drug Administration and the United States Department of Food and Agriculture. Respond to inquiries from industry that may be received by phone or email. Provide responses after conducting research and working with science and regulatory staff.	80	2	160
Total hours for workload projected for this classification			**1,800**
1,800 hours = 1 Position			
Actual number of Positions requested			**1.0**

California Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Food Investigations and Technical Support Section

CURRENT

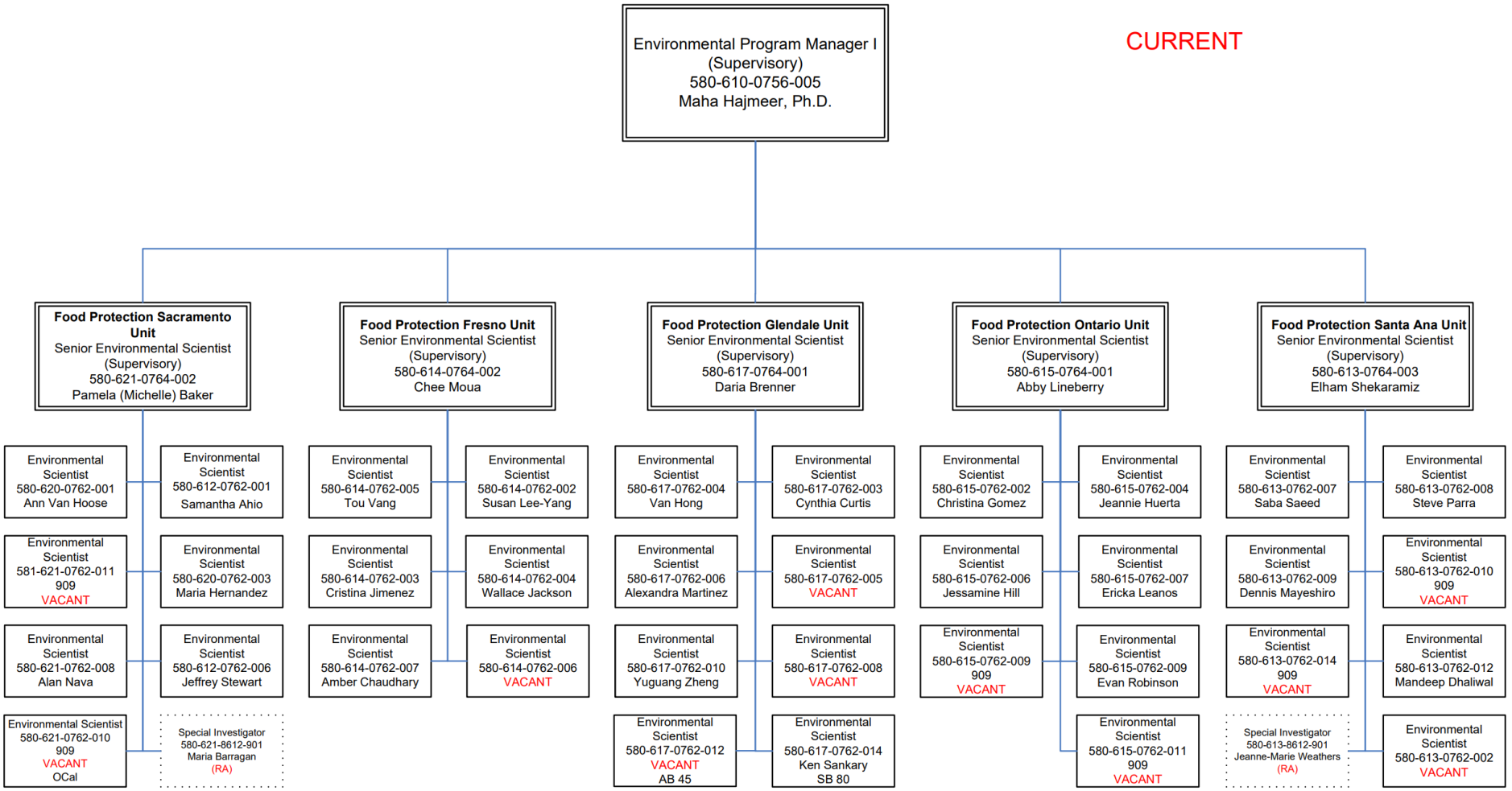


June 2025

Benson Yee, Chief
Food & Drug Branch

California Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Food Safety Protection Section

CURRENT



June 2025

Benson Yee, Chief
Food & Drug Branch

California Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Food Investigations and Technical Support Section

PROPOSED

Special Investigator
580-621-8612-901
Reyna Manriquez
(RA)

Special Investigator
580-618-8612-901
Mary-Kate Miller
(RA)

Special Investigator
580-614-8612-901
Anthony Monreal
(RA)

Special Investigator
580-612-8612-901
Tamara Jackson
(RA)

Special Investigator
580-615-8612-901
Salvador Tena
(RA)

Special Investigator
580-621-8612-901
Ken Namba
(RA)

Chief, Food and Drug Section
580-610-9235-003
Michael Needham

Food Safety Enforcement Unit
Chief, Food and Drug Unit
580-610-9236-007
VACANT

Natomas
Supervising Food and Drug Investigator
580-621-9036-007
Felicia Williams

- Investigator 580-621-8610-007 909 VACANT
- Investigator 580-621-8610-015 Tyceen Odom
- Investigator 580-621-8610-028 Joel Lambert
- Investigator 580-620-8610-001 Jennifer Balinsat
- Investigator 580-610-8610-020 Sam Mauldin

Richmond
Supervising Food and Drug Investigator
580-612-9036- 004
Dana Clark

- Investigator 580-612-8610-006 Lorena Miller
- Investigator 580-612-8610-007 Randi Spears
- Investigator 580-612-8610-011 William Ma
- Investigator 580-612-8610-018 909 VACANT AB 45
- Office Technician (Typing) 580-612-1139-701 909 VACANT

Ontario
Supervising Food and Drug Investigator
580-615-9036-001
Nicole Zugsmith

- Investigator 580-615-8610-002 909 VACANT
- Investigator 580-615-8610-011 909 VACANT
- Investigator 580-617-8610-023 VACANT
- Investigator 580-617-8610-034 Joseph Stys

Santa Ana
Supervising Food and Drug Investigator
580-613-9036-002
Byron Simpson

- Investigator 580-617-8610-019 Maha Maassarani
- Investigator 580-613-8610-002 909 VACANT
- Investigator 580-613-8610-004 909 VACANT
- Investigator 580-613-8610-017 909 VACANT AB 45
- Investigator 580-614-8610-012 VACANT AB 45

Standardization and Continuous Improvement Unit
Chief, Food and Drug Unit
580-615-9236-008
James Chan

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-621-0765-005 Rob Hammerstad
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-610-9028-001 Jeff Seid
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-617-0765-005 Mary Diarbekirian
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-617-9028-003 Jacqueline Nunez
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-002 Susan Leaverton
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-613-0765-002 Rawan Naser
- Environmental Scientist 580-610-0762-009 Shannon Warkentin FoPH BCP
- Environmental Scientist 580-610-0762-008 AnnMarie Velazquez FoPH BCP

Specialized Expertise & Technical Unit
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
580-617-0764-003
June Nakagawa

- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-003 Travis You
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-621-9028-003 Wendy Reynolds
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-614-0765-001 Anthony Garcia
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-613-0765-004 Ali Hossain SB 80
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-613-9028-001 Christina Grant
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-621-9028-002 Duy Truong
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-613-0765-001 Melissa Vasquez
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-XXX VACANT AB 660

Emergency Response Unit
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
580-610-0764-002
Christian Bond

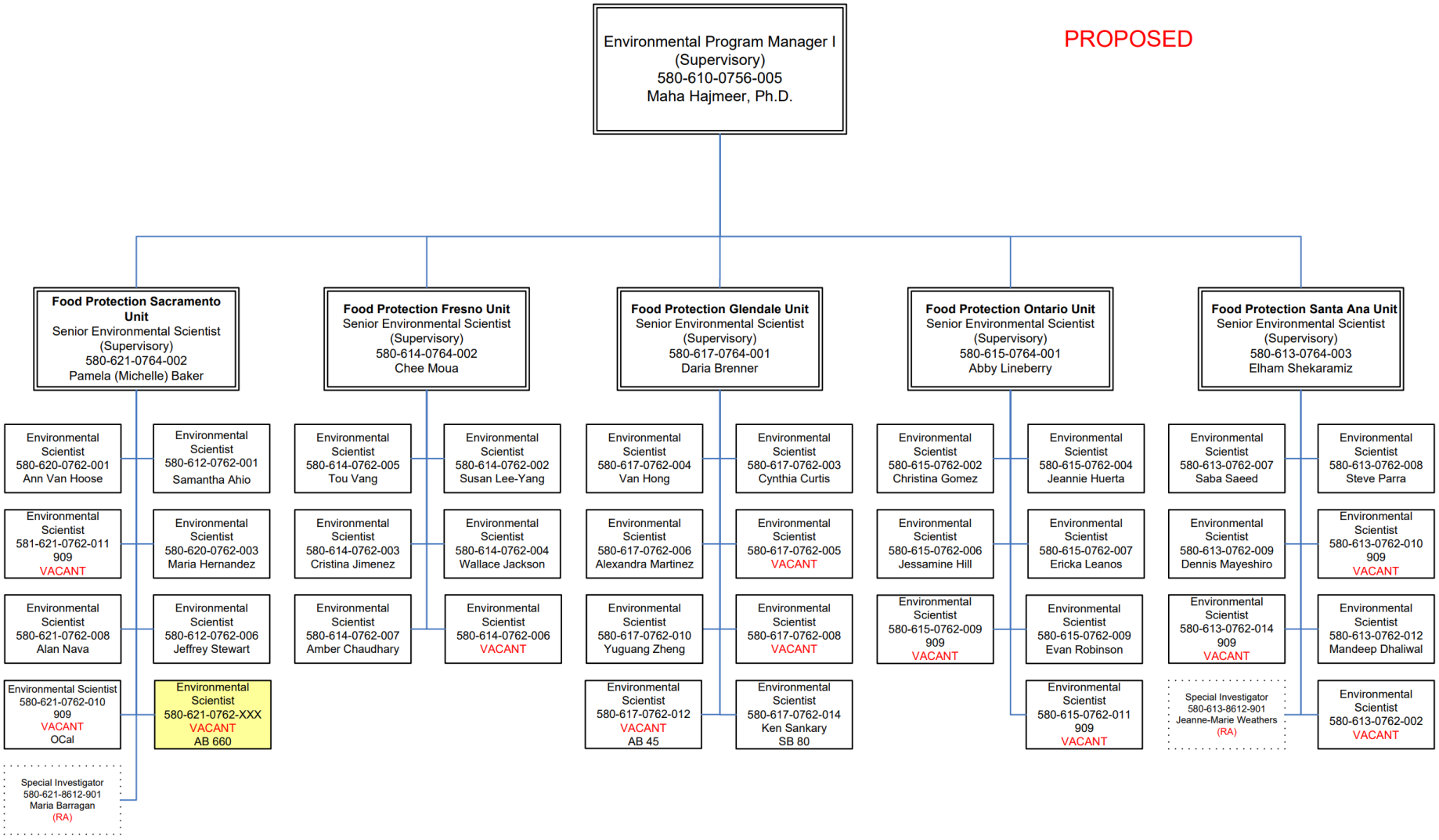
- Food & Drug Program Specialist 580-610-9028-014 Amber Barnes
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-004 Brandon Adcock
- Health Program Specialist I 580-610-8338-007 Mary Buan-Ignacio
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-007 VACANT
- Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist) 580-610-0765-005 Omar Hummadi
- Environmental Scientist 580-610-0762-003 909 Christopher Preston
- Environmental Scientist 580-610-0762-007 Kenneth Zamora
- Environmental Scientist 580-610-0762-006 Nikolas Storm

June 2025

Benson Yee, Chief
Food & Drug Branch

California Department of Public Health
Center for Environmental Health
Division of Food and Drug Safety
Food and Drug Branch
Food Safety Protection Section

PROPOSED



June 2025

Benson Yee, Chief
Food & Drug Branch