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AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/
SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
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GARRETT COOPER
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SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Para información en español sobre registraci3n de abejas, llame al (858) 614-7738.

2026 Beekeeper Registration Notice

California law (Food and Agricultural Code Section 29040) requires all beekeepers to register with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) by January 1st each year, or within 30 days of acquiring an apiary. This means that if you are a beekeeper with an apiary in any area within San Diego County, whether commercial or non-commercial, you are required to renew your registration by January 1, 2026.

If your apiary is in the unincorporated areas of San Diego County, the County of San Diego Bee Ordinance and Best Management Practices (BMPs) apply. If your apiary is in one of the eighteen incorporated cities within the county (ex: San Diego, Escondido, La Mesa, El Cajon, etc.), that city's beekeeping regulations apply. Please remember whether you are in the unincorporated or incorporated area of the county, you must still register your apiary with the CDFA. You can determine what jurisdiction your apiary is located in using the "Jurisdiction Finder Map" at our website: www.sdcountrybees.org

Steps to register your apiary:

1. Register your apiary locations and number of bee colonies electronically using the CDFA's secure BeeWhere website: beewhere.calagpermits.org
 - a) Starting this year, registration will be done solely through BeeWhere, unlike previous years in which beekeepers could register through our office with paper registration forms.
 - b) If you have registered in previous years, you likely already have a BeeWhere ID, even if you did not register through BeeWhere. This ID will be included in this registration packet/email. After creating your account on BeeWhere, please click "Access Beekeeper Management" then "Add my BeeWhere Beekeeper ID" to request to connect your BeeWhere ID to your account.
2. If any of your apiaries are in the unincorporated areas of the county:
 - a) Complete and sign the 2026 BMP checklist and return to us.
 - i) These can be returned digitally via email to Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov or by mail to:

**Department of Agriculture, Weights &
Measures ATTN: Apiary Program
9325 Hazard Way, Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123**

- b) If this is your first time registering, or if you have not already completed it in the past, complete the required UCCE online beekeeping course and quiz:
ucanr.edu/sites/sandiegobees/Online_Beekeeping_Course/
3. If you require assistance or have questions about the registration process, please reach out to us by phone at 858-614-7738 or by email at Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov.

California Department of Food and Agriculture apiary registration fee update.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture finalized a new state apiary registration fee schedule, which will apply to 2026 apiary registrations. The new fee schedule is based on colony count; 1-9 colonies: \$10 (waived in San Diego County), 10-50 colonies: \$100, 51 or more colonies: \$250, brokers: \$250. Fees are assessed in arrears, so your 2026 registration fee will be based on the maximum number of colonies you had registered in 2025. The fees must be paid by January 31st of each registration year. If fees are not paid by that date, **a late penalty fee of 50% of the amount due** will be added to the total amount due (3 CCR § 2952). If fees remain unpaid by February 28th of the registration year, the beekeeper may be excluded from the BeeCheck notification program. The payment portal through BeeWhere is currently accessible for the 2026 registration year.

To sign up to receive updates directly from CDFA's Apiary Protection Program, visit:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pollinators/ApiaryProtection.html>

Request for Pesticide Notification

As part of the registration process, beekeepers may request to be notified at least 48 hours in advance of an application of a pesticide labeled “toxic to bees” onto a blossoming plant within one mile of the apiary location. Growers and commercial pesticide applicators conduct these “bee checks” using the BeeWhere website or through our office. To request notification, complete the appropriate section of your BeeWhere registration.

Contact Us & Learn More

You may contact our office if you have any questions, or to request an inspection to help you comply with the regulatory requirements:

[1-800-200-BEES \(2337\)](tel:1-800-200-BEES) or Labs.AWM@sdcounty.ca.gov.

For more helpful information on beekeeping in San Diego County, visit our website (www.sdcountybees.org) or the University of California Cooperative Extension website (ucanr.edu/sites/sandiegobees/).

We look forward to supporting your beekeeping activities, protecting the health of honey bees and the public. Thank you.