



2026 BMP Checklist for Beekeeping

This checklist must be completed and submitted each year by beekeepers with apiaries located in the unincorporated area of San Diego County. It summarizes the Best Management Practices (BMPs) required by the County beekeeping ordinance. One form can be submitted for all apiary locations.

Please check “Yes” for BMP requirements that are practiced at your apiary and submit this form with your registration. If a BMP is not applicable, select N/A and explain in the comments box on page 2.

Yes N/A **Registration:** Are all your apiary locations registered with accurate colony counts for this calendar year?

Yes N/A **Online Course:** If you are a first-time registrant, have you completed the required UCCE online beekeeping course? https://ucanr.edu/sites/sandiegobees/Online_Beekeeping_Course/.

Yes N/A **Identification Information on Hives:** Do you have your name and phone number displayed on each of your hives in black letters, not less than one inch high, on a background of contrasting color? All hives must be clearly identified, regardless if they are located on your own property or on someone else's property. Identification ensures apiary inspectors, pesticide applicators, and first responders can contact the beekeeper quickly in the event of an emergency.

Yes N/A **Water Supply:** Is there an adequate and accessible supply of fresh water available for your bees at each location, including prior to introduction? Does the water supply provide landing sites for bees to use without drowning, undue competition, or over-crowding?

If the water source was not introduced prior to moving bees to location, not maintained, and/or bees are visiting an unintended water source (ex: swimming pool, water fountain, etc.), you will be required to relocate bees to resolve the issue.

Yes N/A **Fire Prevention:** Do you practice weed suppression*, have a shovel, and operable water hose or fire extinguisher available at all times to suppress accidental fires?

***Minimum weed suppression requirements:**

- Area within 10-feet of hives: cleared to bare earth and free of combustible material.
- Area 10-feet to 30-feet from hives: vegetation maintained to height of 6-inches or less.
- Apiary access road: vegetation maintained to height of 6-inches or less.

Yes N/A **Bee Smokers:** Do you use a fire-resistant smoker plug to prevent embers from escaping smoker? Do you place the smoker in a noncombustible container with secure lid during hand-carry transport?

Yes N/A **Setbacks:** Do each of your apiary locations meet the following setback requirements?

Apiary Setback Requirements				
Hives per Location	Roads	Property Lines	Neighboring Dwellings	Property Line of Sensitive Sites*
1-2 hives (Tier A)	25-feet	25-feet	35-feet	150-feet
3-20 hives (Tier B)	50-feet	50-feet	100-feet	150-feet (3-10 hives) 300-feet (11-20 hives)
21+ hives (Tier C)	100-feet	N/A	300-feet	450-feet

**Sensitive sites are areas where people or animals are more at risk if stinging incidents were to occur. Examples include schools, daycare centers, playgrounds, picnic areas, and facilities for outdoor sports, senior care, medical treatments, and animal housing. A sensitive site could be designated in your area at any time; you will be notified and required to move hive(s) to the required setback distance.*



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- Yes N/A **Re-Queen:** Have you re-queened your hives with known European honey bee (EHB) mated queens (preferably marked) whenever:
 - you establish hives from wild swarms and colonies
 - you observe your bees displaying over-defensive behavior
 - your queen becomes less productive or weak, such as every two years?

- Yes N/A **Flyover Barrier (Tiers A and B only):** Have you surrounded your hives with a six-foot flyover barrier? You must provide a flyover barrier when you have **20 or fewer hives** at a location, unless your hives are 300-feet or more from the nearest neighbor’s dwelling.

- Yes N/A **Regular Hive Check/Undesirable Honey Bee Behavior:** Do you open your hives at least once monthly to check for undesirable bee behavior (such as over-defensiveness/aggressiveness), presence of a productive EHB queen, apiary pests/diseases, sufficient food stores, and practice swarm prevention? When needed, do you take corrective action in a timely manner?

- Yes N/A **Equipment Maintained:** Do you practice good housekeeping at your apiary location to prevent spread of apiary pests, disease, undesirable bee behavior, and/or robbing? This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining and cleaning equipment, not leaving frames of wax comb with honey exposed for bees to clean, properly storing wax comb, hive boxes, and frames with wax foundation in building that bees cannot access, placing wax and debris into a lidded container, and not allowing the apiary or equipment to become abandoned as defined in the County beekeeping ordinance?

Additional Comments – Explain any items marked N/A:

I am aware that San Diego County Ordinances are meant to complement and enforce existing state laws and regulations on apiaries as defined under California Food and Agricultural Code and California Code of Regulations (<https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/pollinators/docs/Laws-Bee-Management.pdf>). I have reviewed and understand the current San Diego County Ordinance on Beekeeping and Apiaries (www.sdcountybees.org). I hereby certify the foregoing to be true and correct.

Company Name (if applicable) _____

Beekeeper’s Printed Name

Signature

Date

County Rep. Printed Name

Signature

Date