

CAPS Members on Front Line of Coronavirus Battle

by Margarita Gordus, President

triggers COVID-19.

The luxury liner quickly became a highprofile symbol of the global fight to defeat State Scientists protect our public health; took on a crucial molecular mission: identify much, much more. which passengers were infected with the

virus so that they could be appropriately guarantined, observed, and treated.

Of course, this was not the first time that government officials in a crisis have turned to the skill, knowledge, and

experience of State Scientists.

Right now, CAPS members working for the California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) are battling HLB, or citrus greening disease. The infection has already devastated Florida's citrus industry and threatens the same to our state's annual \$1.12 billion orange crop.

CDFA veterinarians have been fighting a strain of Newcastle disease that poses a threat to the state's vast poultry industry. In partnership with federal and local health authorities, some 1.2 million chickens have been eradicated so far, in an effort to contain the infection. The Department you, am doing my part in following the is entering its third year of monitoring and guidance from our scientists at CDPH to responding to the disease.

of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) phrase. It's the truth. We live it every were key investigators and witnesses in day. And science doesn't matter without the conviction of an oil company whose scientists.

In early March, you probably saw video and ruptured pipeline in 2015 contaminated photos of the Grand Princess cruise ship Refugio State Beach and left tar balls on floating in the water just off the California beaches throughout Southern California. coast. It carried 2,422 guests, another 1,111 Last month, the company agreed to a crew members, and a deadly, unwelcomed settlement requiring it to implement passenger, the novel coronavirus that safeguards for its national pipeline network and pay more than \$60 million dollars in penalties and cost reimbursements.

the viral pandemic. Meanwhile, a few inspect imported and exported agriculture miles north at the California Department of products; identify consumer goods that Public Health's (CDPH) Richmond labs, State contain toxic substances; fight invasive Scientists -- many of them CAPS members -- species of fish, animals, and plants; and

> Science Matters" isn't just CAPS' catchy phrase. It's the truth. We live it every day. And science doesn't matter without scientists."

When science shapes sound policy and makes our world better, it can be easy to overlook. We don't think about polio anymore because Salk's vaccine worked.

Shoppers buy produce, meat, and diary goods expecting they will be safe to consume. We appreciate the beauty of a sandy beach, but how often do we think about the science-based policies and laws that preserve it?

The coronavirus pandemic has thrust State Scientists into the foreground. Of the 46 samples collected on the Grand Princess and flown to the Richmond lab for testing, 21 came back positive. As of this writing, 103 passengers tested positive for the coronavirus, and two died. And, sadly, that is just the tiniest fraction of lives affected and lost as the virus has spread. I, like help slow the spread of COVID-19.

CAPS members working for the Office "Science Matters" isn't just CAPS' catchy

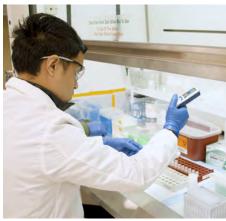


State Scientists are deployed in the aftermath of wildfires to assess toxics left behind.

CAPS Bargaining Presentation Photo Highlights

Your CAPS Bargaining Team met with CalHR's Team on March 5 at CAPS' headquarters in Sacramento. The all-day meeting included a detailed presentation on how State Scientists protect public health, guard California's environment, ensure the safety of California's agriculture, and defend its natural resources. These photos were a small part of that presentation.

During Governor Newsom's Shelter in Place Order, face-to-face bargaining meetings have been put on hold. Bargaining will resume once normal business resumes. Please follow developments through CAPS weekly emails and CAPSule.



A Toxic Substances Control scientist at the Environmental Contaminant Lab in Berkeley checks for contaminants in human tissue and fluid samples.





Toxic Substances Control staff wearing personal protective equipment check barrels of unknown chemicals/contaminants.



A Department of Fish & Wildlife Environmental Scientist releases a desert bighorn ram in the Trilobite Wilderness near his capture location.





A Food & Agriculture Veterinarian (General) vaccinates a dairy cow against TB.



State Scientists are a linchpin in wildlife rescues during toxic spills and natural disasters.



A Toxic Substances Control scientist at the Environmental Contaminant Lab in Berkeley checks for contaminants in human tissue and fluid samples.



A Food & Agriculture Veterinarian (Meat Inspection), explains to a specialty butcher how to process meat according to cultural or religious custom while still adhering to food safety principles and state law.

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State Scientists in some 81 classes in 43 different series comprise Bargaining Unit 10. This table shows the 10 departments that employ the most State Scientists and the 10 counties with the highest number of Unit 10 employees working within those boundaries.



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To CAPS Members:

The public health crisis confronting our state, our nation, and the world will be solved because of the invaluable work and tireless dedication of scientists. Meanwhile, CAPS members are protecting California's public health, environment, agriculture, and natural resources -- even during this challenging time. CAPS urges you to take all steps necessary to protect yourself and your loved ones. If you are not deemed to perform essential duties, but are otherwise denied telework, please contact CAPS via email (caps@capsscientists.org).

We are proud to represent Unit 10 State Scientists who apply their knowledge and skills daily to benefit all of us.

Thank you. Be safe.

In Solidarity,

The CAPS Board of Directors

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