



APIARY REGULATION

Agriculture, Weights and Measures County of San Diego





BACKGROUND

Feral Honey bees versus managed hives

Regulation

San Diego Regulation



San Diego Agriculture and Bees



- Agriculture

- Ornamental nursery: \$1.1 billion
 - not dependent on pollination, concerns about workers
- Fruit crops (citrus, avocado, berries): \$370 million
 - rely on pollination (serviced by commercial beekeepers)
- Local food production: home gardening
 - relies on pollination (benefits from bees)





San Diego County



98% of the
~25,000 hives
are commercial



Less than 100
beekeepers were
registered in county in
2015

Amateur / Hobbyist Beekeeping



Africanized versus European Bees



Africanized Bee

150 foot defensive zone

European Bee

25 foot defensive zone



Why an Apiary Gets Africanized



European Honey Bee	African Honey Bee
May send out 10–20 guard bees in response to disturbances up to 20 feet away (Figure 1)	May send out several hundred guard bees in response to disturbances up to 120 feet away (Figure 2)
Once agitated, will usually become calm within 10–15 minutes	Once agitated, may remain defensive for hours or until the sun sets
Disturbing a colony may result in 10–20 stings	Disturbing a colony may result in 100–1000 stings
Swarm 1 or 2 times per year	Can swarm 10 or more times a year
Swarms are larger and need larger volume in which to nest	Swarms contain fewer individuals, and therefore a much smaller nest cavity is needed (Figure 3)
Rarely abscond (or completely abandon nest) from nesting location	Abscond often and relocate to more suitable nesting locations

The developmental time in days (from egg to adult) of European and African honey bees.

	European honey bees	African honey bees
Queen	16	14
Worker	21	19–20
Drone	24	24



Apiary Regulation History & Hierarchy



- Historical Purpose of Apiary Regulations
 - Apiary Protection: Instigated and set up mainly to protect apiary industry from commercial insecticide applications
 - Insect disease and pest transmission (Export licenses, state-to-state)
 - Standardization (hives for pollination, honey)
- Many layers of Authority
 - federal, state, county, city, homeowners associations, and CCR
 - Differs between counties (some animal control, some environmental health)



San Diego County:



- California Dept Food & Ag
- Ag Commissioner (AWM)
- Cities
- Apiary Issues for Regulators
 - Trespassing hives, unidentified, unregistered apiaries, unwanted pollination (clementine, apples, apricots) pest quarantine issues, insecticide applications, historically low compliance rates by beekeepers, lack of enforcement



Local Issues with Apiaries

- Africanization of honey bee hives-both feral and managed
- Collecting and keeping local swarms to make apiary
 - Not using domesticated stock-denial of Africanization issue here
- Non-compliance with safety provisions of ordinances
 - Set back distances offer protection (hyper-sensitive, children)
 - Best management practices for managing bees (water)
- Weak hives get robbed and bring diseases back to other apiaries
- Not splitting hives when colonies grow-leads to swarming
- Swarm removal and hive removal not being done correctly
- “Fostering” service businesses not doing right by customer
- Not respecting others’ use of their own property
- Not understanding that bees are livestock, and need resources



NEW APIARY ORDINANCE

- New apiary ordinance?
- Tiered system, reduced distances, combined with mitigation measures
- Registration-location of apiaries reported to AWM-applies Countywide
- New ordinance provisions do not apply county wide-just the unincorporated county-(tiered system reduced distances mitigation measures)



THE NEW ORDINANCE Unincorporated County



Please refer to new San Diego County ordinance



Ordinance Effective Nov 14, 2015

- BOS adopted the proposed Ordinance
- Established appropriations for the Bee Program
- Approved the request to add one staff year
- Approved funding for first time costs
- Approved funding for UCCE
- Status report in early 2018



Three-Tiered Bee Ordinance Amendment

<u>Tier</u>	Max # Hives*	Distance from <u>Road</u>	Distance from <u>Property Line</u>	Distance from <u>Neighboring Dwelling</u>	Distance from <u>Sensitive Site</u>
A Hobby	2 *up to 5 hives on a temporary basis (30 days)	25'	25'	35'	150'
B Small-scale	20	50'	50'	100'	3-10 hives: 150' ----- 11-20 hives: 300'
C Commercial	---	100'	---	300'	450'



Sensitive Sites





How Sensitive Sites Are Designated

1. Defined by the ordinance; automatically designated, public or visible locations where people gather; permanent.
 - a. *schools, playgrounds, picnic areas, outdoor sports facilities, daycare centers, senior care facilities, medical facilities, kennels and horse-boarding facilities*
 - b. *Beekeepers have primary responsibility*
2. “Opt-In;” Applications to AWM.
 - a. *Property operators, owners, or residents*
 - b. *Businesses*
 - c. *Three-year renewals*

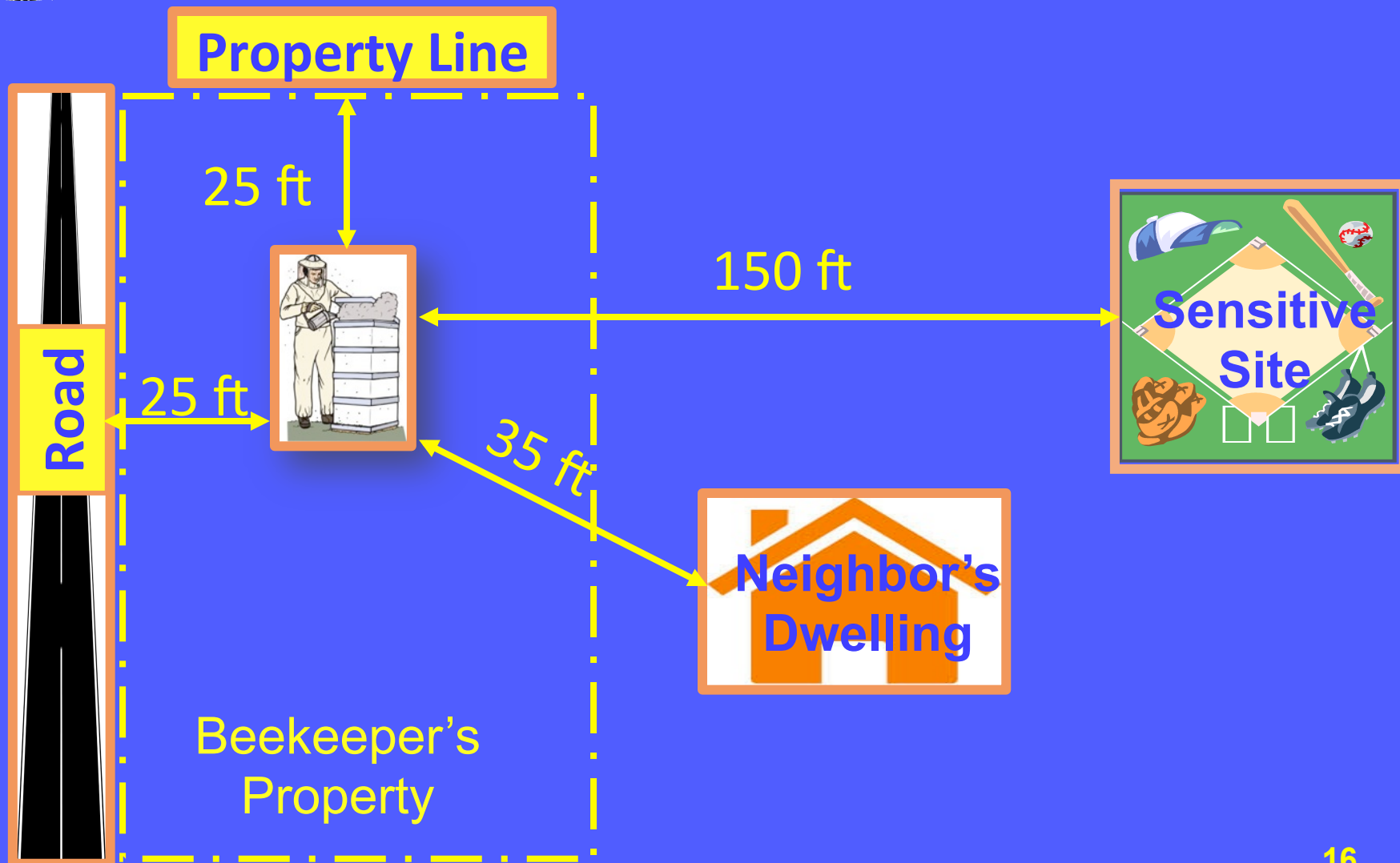
AWM

- *notifies any impacted beekeepers*
- *follows-up with field inspections*



Tier A – Hobbyist Beekeeping

2 hives, (up to 5 temporarily)





Tier B – Small-Scale Commercial

Max: 20 hives



Property Line

50 ft

150 ft for 1-10 hives
300 ft for 11-20 hives

50 ft

100 ft

Road

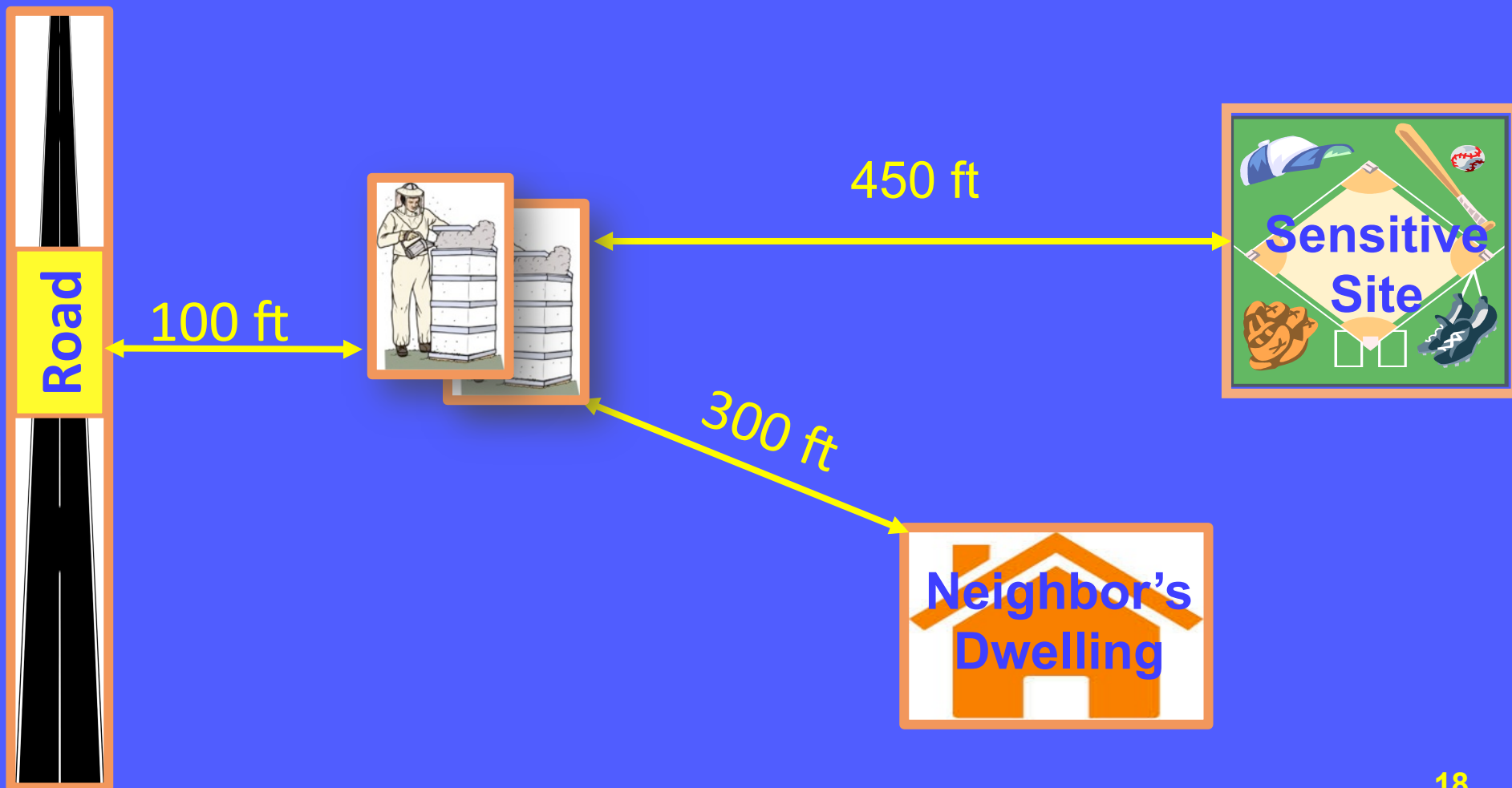
Sensitive Site

Neighbor's Dwelling

Beekeeper's Property



Tier C –Commercial Beekeepers





Best Management Practices

Registration

Online Course

Re-queen

Inspection Checklist

Hive Inspections
by Beekeeper

6-Foot Flyover Barrier

Water Supply

Hive Position

Hive Identification

Fire Suppression

Goal: Implement BMPs to Protect Public Safety



Compliance Monitoring

- Compliance tools
 - County Administrative Code
 - State Law
 - SDBS assistance

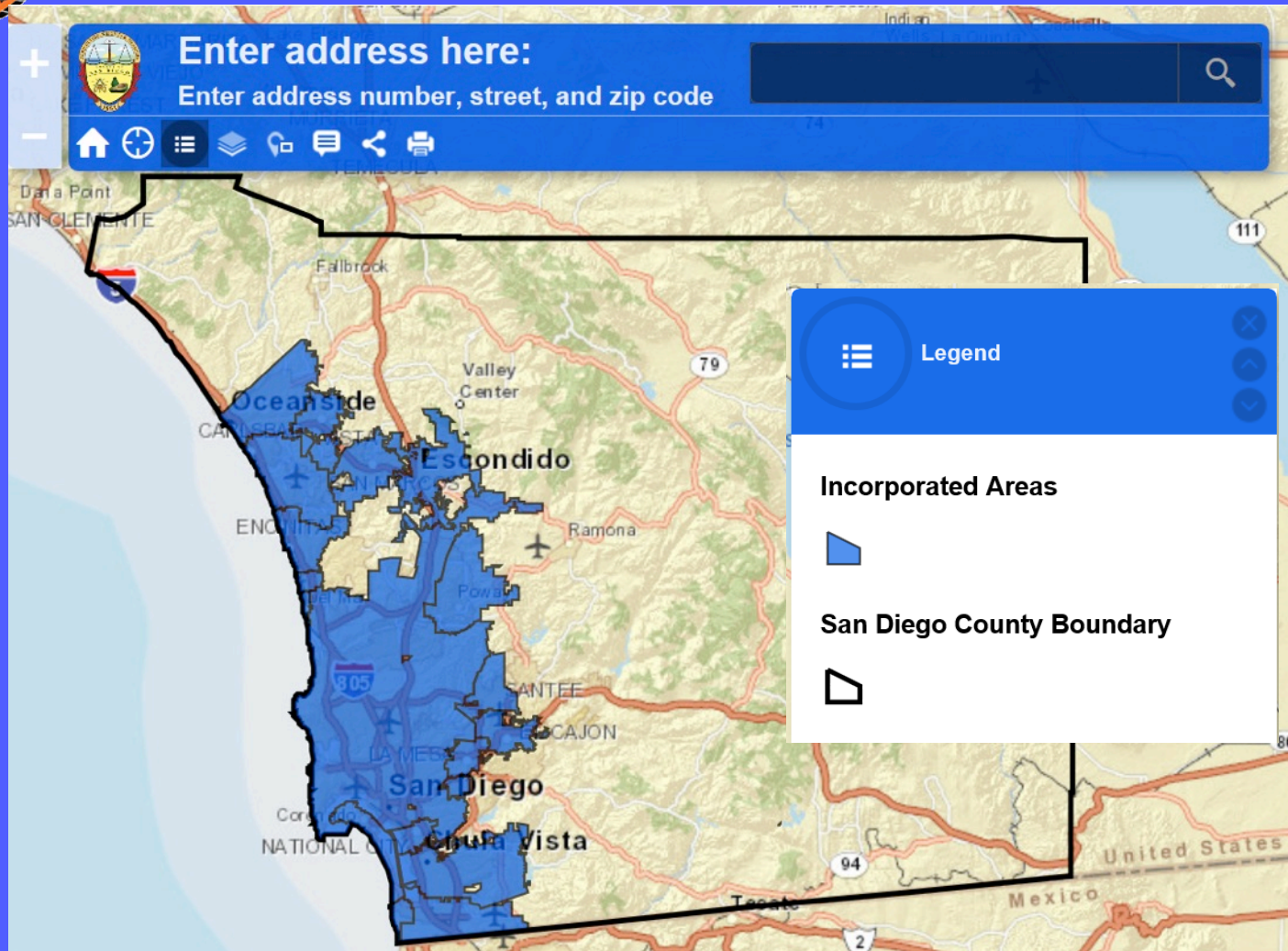
Public nuisance-can be declared by agricultural commissioner or City usually requires full due process unless there is a serious hazard to abate

Private nuisance-when one neighbor sues another (feral bees)





JURISDICTION FINDER FOR REGISTRATION





HIVE BOX INSPECTION



Colony Strength Evaluation (08:39 / 21:06)



Shannon Mueller Ph.D.
Farm Advisor

Credits

Email



Reminders

- Registration Forms – required of all beekeepers Jan 1 each year
- Please double-check with your local City for information on codes for beekeeping