

July 31, 2024

California Department of Pesticide Regulation
Director Julie Henderson

For many years, residents of farm working communities have called for advanced warning of pesticides used near their homes and schools. CleanEarth4Kids.org thanks DPR for your efforts to create a statewide pesticide notification system. Farms and surrounding communities can not be sacrifice zones and pesticide manufacturers should pay for the system as they are ultimately responsible for the harms done to these communities.

[Children of color are more likely to be exposed to pesticides.](#) making them not just more susceptible but more vulnerable to harm.¹ These children are regularly [exposed](#) to toxic pesticides and have adverse health effects.²

The proximity to the use of agricultural pesticides is critical as pesticides can [drift](#) miles, harming children and families living [near agricultural fields](#).^{3,4}

[Pesticide drift](#) settles on playgrounds, porches, laundry, toys, pools, furniture, gardens, and lawns where people and children live, learn, and play.⁵ This exposes people, pollinators, and wildlife to danger from what they touch, breathe, and eat.

For more information on the dangers of pesticides, please click [here](#) CleanEarth4Kids.org Team 5: Stop Toxic Pesticides page.⁶

Please implement the following suggestions.

1. Notifications Must Include The Exact Location Of The Pesticide Application

Pesticide use notifications must include the exact location of the pesticide application. The proposed notification of 1 square mile sections is inadequate. It must be by the field location.

DPR has stated that the exact location cannot be provided because this information is not standardized in the Notices of Intent (NOI), submitted by farmers to county agricultural commissioners. DPR must standardize this information, requiring the same location information already included in the permits referenced by the NOI. As DPR will be requiring NOIs to be submitted online, the exact location information will be readily accessible by the notification system. There is no legitimate reason to not include the exact location in the public notification.

The primary goal of the notification system is to allow community members to protect their health and that can not be done without the exact location of the pesticide application.

¹ <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-022-13057-4>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36173136/>

³ <https://europepmc.org/article/AGR/IND20460440>

⁴ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11097803/>

⁵ <https://www.epa.gov/reducing-pesticide-drift/introduction-pesticide-drift>

⁶ <https://cleaneearth4kids.org/stop-pesticides>

Requiring users to enter an address to view upcoming applications within a 1 square mile section is unacceptable. It is restrictive and is not transparent.

2. Notifications Must Be For All Agricultural Pesticides, Not Just Restricted Materials

California studies show 13 agricultural pesticides [elevated children's cancer](#) up to 2.5 miles away from the application sites: bromacil, chlorothalonil, dimethoate, diuron, kresoxim-methyl, metam-sodium, paraquat dichloride, phosmet, propanil, propiconazole, thiophanate-methyl, triforine and linuron.⁷ Only 5 are classified as [Restricted Use by the EPA](#).⁸ But 11 of the 13 are banned or not approved in other countries with 10 of them banned in at least 28 countries.

3. Notifications Must Be Fully Accessible

This system must be web-based, easy-to-use and accurate with a map showing all planned applications of agricultural pesticides in the state, without the need to register, sign up, enter an address, or share personal information. Notifications can not be limited to people living in certain geographic boundaries. Families may want to monitor pesticide applications near relatives and children may attend school a long distance from where they live. There can not be any restrictions on alerting.

Existing notification systems for wildfires, air pollution, tsunamis, etc. include interactive maps that allow anyone to zoom in to areas of interest and sign up for alerts in any area. The use of pesticides must be seen as no different than any other threat to human health and safety. There is no legitimate reason why this information should be limited or restricted in any way.

4. Notifications Must Be Detailed

Notifications must include the field location (using addresses) along with a link to a map. The name of the pesticide product and primary active ingredient including the EPA registration number must also be included along with a link to the product label or Safety Data Sheets if in plain language. The pesticide applicator and farm owner information should also be included.

5. Opt-In Alerts Must Be Provided

Exposure to pesticides is a public health threat and alerting is vital to protect human health.

Alerts must be provided by email and/or text at least 72 hours in advance of the planned application, in English and the languages most commonly spoken in California's farmworker communities.

6. We Need Notification Now

The planned implementation timeline of 2024 is not acceptable. DPR can require County Agricultural Commissioners to publicly post Notices of Intent to use Restricted Material pesticides now, with no need for regulation. We urge DPR to take this interim step now, while

⁷ <https://coeh.ph.ucla.edu/2021/04/05/childhood-brain-tumors-linked-to-mothers-exposure-to-pesticides/>

⁸ <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/RUP-Report-10-31-2022.pdf>

they continue to develop a regulation that goes further than this baseline.

7. DPR Must Establish A Framework For Feedback And Improvement

CleanEarth4Kids.org asks DPR to establish groups as part of the notification system. These groups must be focused on the public right to know and health, not the convenience of industry.

- Permanent Community Advisory Panel composed of impacted community residents to oversee the program
- Health Advisory Panel of medical professionals to review the health risk information that is provided during the notification process.

Pesticides are Toxic

[Synthetic pesticides](#) damage the environment and human health.⁹ Pesticides are known to [increase children's cancer risk](#) and [95% of pesticides used miss their target](#).^{10,11} Pesticides are poison, they are designed to kill. That is their purpose.

The US uses [toxic pesticides banned](#) in many other countries.¹² The US only bans 21 pesticides while China bans 54 and the EU bans 195. (For a list of pesticides banned in other countries, please click [here](#).)¹³ 99% of synthetic pesticides and synthetic fertilizers come from fossil fuels and the continued use of [these petrochemicals](#) is a direct threat to the climate and our world.¹⁴

Approximately 1/3 of the annual US pesticide use, over [300 million pounds from 85 different pesticides](#), are from pesticides banned in the EU.¹⁵ In 2017 & 2018, the EPA registered [more than 100 pesticides](#) with ingredients widely considered to be dangerous.¹⁶ There are also pesticide additives (adjuvants) which can [also be toxic](#), yet are not considered in [pesticide safety](#) regulations.^{17,18}

Also, many [common pesticides](#)¹⁹ have been found to [contain PFAS](#)²⁰ which are incredibly toxic and are a direct threat to [human and environmental health](#).²¹

For information on how the pesticide industry makes sure their products are approved without proper testing, we encourage you to look at the article [“How Pesticide Companies Corrupted the EPA and Poisoned America”](#).²² Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., is quoted in the article: “These findings are profoundly alarming and point to a troubling pattern of

⁹ <https://www.dw.com/en/pesticide-atlas-2022>

¹⁰ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1438463919306212?via%3Dihub>

¹¹ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pesticide-drift/>

¹² <https://biologicaldiversity.org/united-states-uses-85-pesticides-outlawed-in-other-countries-2019-06-06/>

¹³ <https://pan-international.org/pan-international-consolidated-list-of-banned-pesticides/>

¹⁴ <https://www.ciel.org/reports/fossil-fertilizers/>

¹⁵ <https://biologicaldiversity.org/united-states-uses-85-pesticides-outlawed-in-other-countries-2019-06-06/>

¹⁶ https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/pesticides_reduction/pdfs/Toxic-Hangover.pdf

¹⁷ <https://ncipmhort.cfans.umn.edu/sites/files/2020-05/adjuvants%20harmful%20frontiers%20article.pdf>

¹⁸ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29404314/>

¹⁹ <https://beyondpesticides.org/alarming-levels-of-pfas-found-in-commonly-used-pesticides/>

²⁰ <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/pesticides-are-spreading-toxic-forever-chemicals-scientists-warn/>

²¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7906952/>

²² <https://theintercept.com/2021/06/30/epa-pesticides-exposure-opp/>

disregard at the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs." Pesticide companies often sit on panels, committees, and working groups to "advise" regulators and have ensured the EPA relies almost entirely on [industry-funded studies](#).²³ There is also a 10-part [series](#) in the Intercept on how the EPA is failing to evaluate and test pesticides and chemicals due to industry interference.²⁴ For example, the [EPA's pesticide office approved 89% of 972 industry requests to waive toxicity tests](#) between 2011 and 2018.²⁵

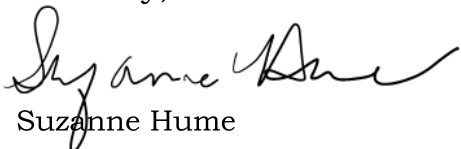
DPR Must Protect Human Health And The Environment

It is DPR's stated mission "to protect human health and the environment by regulating pesticide sales and use". DPR must prioritize health and the environment over all other considerations. The health effects of pesticide exposure and drift have not been adequately addressed to meet the safety needs of the public.

We must make manufacturers prove their products are safe before being ever used, not the other way around. Every life is precious and the societal and environmental harm from toxic pesticides is immeasurable. The use of synthetic pesticides must stop.

Regenerative and organic [agricultural practices](#) have shown poisons like neonicotinoid pesticides are not necessary.²⁶ Many cultural, mechanical, and biological solutions can be used for effective pest control in our homes, parks, and farms.²⁷

Sincerely,



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CleanEarth4Kids.org works to protect children's health & future, public health, the health and safety of communities, workers, indigenous peoples-globally and reminds all that clean air, water, a livable future, and access to nature are human rights. Streams, rivers, oceans, public lands, forests, trees, wildlife, ecosystems, climate, soils, and organic gardens must be protected. Access to healthy safe food, playgrounds, schools, homes, communities, cities and public lands- without toxic pesticides, toxic chemicals, plastics, lead, heavy metals and pollution- are essential for life.

At the heart of CleanEarth4Kids.org: environmental protection, children's health and future, public health, environmental, racial, social and climate justice, education and JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion). CleanEarth4Kids.org works to stop toxic chemicals, PFAS, pesticides, lead and heavy metals, plastics and microplastics, toxic toys and products, synthetic turf, PIP (Pour In Place Playgrounds), fossil fuels, pollution, environmental destruction, degradation and injustice and works to uphold human rights and justice.

²³ <https://www.panna.org/gmos-pesticides-profit/corporate-science-spin>

²⁴ <https://theintercept.com/2021/07/02/epa-chemical-safety-corruption-whistleblowers/>

²⁵ <https://theintercept.com/2021/06/30/epa-pesticides-exposure-opp/>

²⁶ <https://cleanearth4kids.org/farming-regenerative>

²⁷ <https://cleanearth4kids.org/stop-pesticides#>