

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF PESTICIDE REGULATION

In the Matter of:

Proposed Modifications for)
Statewide Notification of)
Agricultural Use of)
Restricted Materials)
_____)

PUBLIC HEARING

SHAFTER YOUTH CENTER
455 E EUCLID AVENUE
SHAFTER, CA 93263

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

6:30 P.M.

Reported by:

Elise Hicks

APPEARANCESHEARING OFFICER

Lucy Correa, Senior Environmental Scientist

STAFF

Alex Cadenas, Information Officer

Leia Bailey, Assistant Director of Communications & Outreach

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eulalia Mendoza, MICOP

Yuridiana Alvarado, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Maricela Mendez, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Maria Perales, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Ana Rosa Rizo-Centino, UFW

Irma Arredondo, Delano Guardians

Danny Galbeso

Dora Hernandez, Mexican Colony DACs

Socorro Guzman

Eloisa Hernandez

Maria Isobel Ramirez, SASS

Juan Manuel Moran, SASS

Alexia Rangel, SASS, Co-founder of Future Leaders of Change

Eileen Jane Giron

Yuviria Lopez, Mexicana

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Ofelia Ochoa, Las Panchas

Felipa Trujillo

Noemi Chica, SASS

Mark Weller, Californians for Pesticide Reform

Esmeralda Blanco, CAPS 805

Irene Gomez, CAPS 805

Ana Mendoza, CAPS 805

Emmanuel Juarez, CAPS 805

Raul Garcia, TC CAPS

Jesus Verduzco, Californians for Pesticide Reform

Sasha Alvarez, UFW

Jennifer Alvarez, UFW

Sandra Melgoza Placencia, Leadership Counsel for Justice &
Accountability

Cecilia Lopez, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Flor Alvarado, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Luz Castellanos, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Bertha Romero, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Alma Cueva, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Grettel Sanjuan, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

Maria Gonzales Fride, Líderes Campesinas Ventura

APPEARANCESPUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Maria, 805

Civy Carranza, Líderes Campesinas

Osmin Chavez, 805 CAPS

Omar Garcia, 805 CAPS

Yesenia Acosta

Elena Pasquarella, 805 CAPS

Veronica Garcia Padilla, Líderes Campesinas

Santiago Torres, Future Leaders of Change

Felipe Perez, CDR

Jenny Holtermann, KCFB

Michele McManus, Wilson AGENCY

Yesin Acosta

Veronica Garcia

Emilio Sarmina

Olivia Perez, CAPS 805

Marisa Gonzalez, Vegan Academy L.A.

Monica Slikker, Vince Dusters

Gustavo Aguirre, CRPE

Cesar Aguirre, CCEJN

Jose Ojeda

Byanka Santoyo, CRPE

APPEARANCES

PUBLIC COMMENT (cont'd)

Mary Jane Galviso, RCRC

Marcos Chavez, 805 CAPS

Jerry Saldana, 805 CAPS

Noemi Hernandez, 805 CAPS

JB Lopez

Alan Shorb, 805 CAPS

Renee Pinel, WPHA

Joshua Rahm, CA Walnut Commission

Lupe Martinez

Gus Aguirre Jr.

Bryan Bone

Emma

Emily

Ana

Marco

Javier Arroyo, Colonia

P R O C E E D I N G S

6:25 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 23, 2024

HEARING OFFICER CORREA: I will now notify attendees and the court reporter that we are officially beginning the public hearing and will now go on record. This hearing will officially come to order.

So good evening, everyone. My name is Lucy Correa. I'm a Senior Environmental Scientist with the Department of Pesticide Regulation, also referred to as DPR, and I'm going to be the Hearing Officer for today's public hearing. As Hearing Officer, I will be receiving your comments tonight.

I do want to mention that DPR is not in a position to respond to any comments at this time. We do have a full house and we want to hear from everybody. We will be responding to comments in writing as part of the official regulatory rulemaking that will be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law.

So for the record, today is July 23rd, 2024, and it is 6:29 p.m. Pacific time. We are in the Shafter Youth Center, located at 455 East Euclid Avenue in Shafter, California, 93263.

This hearing is being transcribed today by Elise Hicks from California Reporting. The transcript of the

1 hearing will be made part of the rulemaking record.

2 As I mentioned before as well, the hearing is
3 also being translated from English to Spanish and from
4 Spanish to English by Carlos Diaz and Ruth Monroy from
5 TransLang.

6 To start off, I want to emphasize that DPR
7 welcomes participation from all members of the public. So
8 if you know anyone that couldn't make it today, Please
9 remind them that they can submit their comments via email
10 at dpr23003@cdpr.ca.gov. They can also submit comments
11 through the DPR SmartComment, which is DPR's online comment
12 portal, or by mail that is postmarked no later than August
13 1st, 2024. Instructions for submitting written comments
14 are on this slide and can also be found in the Notice of
15 Modifications to Text which was published on the DPR's
16 website on July 2nd, 2024.

17 So let's start off with some general housekeeping
18 announcements for this hearing.

19 First of all, I would ask all of those attending
20 to please check and mute your cell phones. Additionally,
21 as you guys are where we are in a large room that echoes a
22 lot. So if you have conversations with people in your
23 group, consider stepping outside so that it doesn't
24 interrupt the commenter when they're making comments.

25 All right, if you want to sign up for a comment,

1 you can visit the DPR's sign up table, which is in the
2 right rear side of the room. If you've already signed up
3 to provide comment, I will be calling on all the attendees
4 by the name, sorry, by name in order in which they have
5 signed up. We also have staff from DPR to assist with
6 speaker sign-ups, so please see the staff at the sign-up
7 table for any questions or support regarding signing up for
8 a comment today.

9 Oh, it's a little windy up here.

10 Okay, before we begin taking comments, I'm going
11 to do a quick -- provide a procedural background of the
12 proposed actions.

13 The Director of DPR has called this hearing to
14 receive public comments on proposed modifications of the
15 following rulemaking actions.

16 On November 3rd, 2023, DPR issued a notice
17 proposing to amend Sections 6000, 6424, 6428, 6432, and
18 6434 of Title 3, California Code of Regulations. A 70-day
19 public period was held that included three public hearings
20 in 2023. The comment period closed on January 12, 2024.

21 Based on the comments received from the initial
22 comment period, DPR is proposing to modify the original
23 proposed amendments to Section 6434 of Title 3, California
24 Code of Regulations. DPR finds that the modifications are
25 sufficiently related to the original proposed text.

1 The proposed modifications will clarify that for
2 intended restricted material applications for production of
3 agricultural commodity, soil fumigations are subject to the
4 48-hour Notice of Intent, also known as NOIs, submission,
5 and DPR notification timing requirement. All other
6 restricted material pesticide applications requiring a
7 permit are subject to 24 hour Notice of Intent submission
8 and DPR notification requirement.

9 The proposed modification will also clarify that
10 the requirement for DPR to make select Notice of Intent
11 information publicly available will be effective 30 days
12 after the effective date of the regulation.

13 The proposed modification will also clarify that
14 DPR will make the pesticide product names and active
15 ingredients for intended soil fumigant applications
16 publicly available.

17 Lastly, DPR amended the process for reviewing and
18 evaluating the notification system. DPR will now be
19 required to annually issue a status update on the system
20 and process for making select Notice of Intent information
21 publicly available until DPR issues a draft report on the
22 system three years after the regulation has become
23 effective.

24 DPR will be required to present the status update
25 and to receive -- sorry, to present the status update to

1 and receive feedback from the Department of Pesticide
2 Regulation Environmental Justice Advisory Committee and the
3 State Board of Food and Agriculture, and to receive public
4 comment on each annual status update for a minimum of 30
5 days.

6 Three years after the regulation becomes
7 effective, DPR will be required to issue a report that
8 comprehensively evaluates its system and process for making
9 select Notice of Intent information publicly available.
10 Under the modified regulation text, before issuing the
11 final report, DPR will be required to present the draft
12 report to and receive feedback from DPR's Environmental
13 Justice Advisory Committee and the State Board of Food and
14 Agriculture and to receive accept public comment on the
15 draft report for a minimum of 45 days.

16 Today's proceeding is an official government
17 proceeding intended to allow members of the public an
18 opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process by
19 providing comments and suggestions on how to improve the
20 proposed modifications.

21 As previously mentioned, these modifications were
22 officially proposed on July 2nd, 2024. On July 2nd, 2024,
23 DPR opened the public comment period on the proposed
24 modifications. The public comment period is scheduled to
25 close August 1st, 2024, and until that time, written

1 comments will be accepted. DPR will accept written
2 comments that are submitted via U.S. Mail and postmarked no
3 later than August 1st, 2024. DPR will also accept comments
4 transmitted via email to dpr23003@cdpr.ca.gov, via the
5 SmartComment online comment portal, or by fax at 916-324-
6 1491, no later than August 1st, 2024. DPR's mailing
7 address, email, and fax number, as well as a link to the
8 SmartComment web page, can be found in the Notice of
9 Modifications.

10 For the record, the material that serves as
11 background for this hearing is the rulemaking file. The
12 rulemaking file consists of the Notice of Proposed Action,
13 the proposed text, the Initial Statement of Reasons, the
14 Economic Fiscal Impact Statement, and a grouping of
15 documents referred to as the documents relied upon.

16 The rulemaking file also contains the Notice of
17 Modifications and the Text of Modified Regulations,
18 transcripts from all hearings on the regulation, as well as
19 documents called the Final Statement of Reasons. The Final
20 Statement of Reasons will contain DPR's responses in
21 writing to all timely received comments during the initial
22 comment period on the proposed rulemaking action and this
23 second comment period on the proposed modifications to the
24 rulemaking action.

25 As I mentioned previously, DPR will not be

1 answering questions or responding to comments. DPR is not
2 in a position to respond to individual comments at this
3 time as we need to give all comments we receive equal
4 consideration. DPR will respond to comments after the
5 close of the comment period as part of the final submission
6 of the regulation to the Office of Administrative Law. If
7 you have any questions about these regulations, please
8 refer to the rulemaking documents by scanning one of the QR
9 codes on our sign-up table that is at the rear of the room.

10 We are now going to move to the public comments.

11 I'm showing on the screen meeting agreements for
12 public hearing. These agreements were developed by the
13 collaborative group of County Agricultural Commissioners,
14 community advocates, and DPR staff to help us all hold
15 spaces in our time together that enhance and improve public
16 participation and to set the stage for productive meetings.

17 This is considered a formal hearing. However,
18 you will not be placed under oath, you will not be subject
19 to cross-examination or examination, nor is this an
20 appropriate venue for DPR to answer questions or engage in
21 dialogue in response to your oral comments. As I mentioned
22 before, DPR will respond to comments after the close of the
23 comment period as part of the final submission of the
24 regulation to the Office of Administrative Law.

25 In order to allow adequate opportunity for public

1 comment, each public commenter will be allowed two minutes.
2 We ask that you respect this time, as we do have a big list
3 of people that have signed up. If you have already
4 provided a comment at a previous session, we ask that you
5 consider allowing another person to take your spot. So if
6 I call you up and that's what you want to do, let me know.
7 We can save you until the end if we have time.

8 Persons will be heard in the order that they have
9 signed up, so that's how we're going to work on it. If you
10 exceed your time limit, I will encourage you to wrap it up.
11 And we will have a clock at the top so you know what your
12 time is.

13 As a reminder, the formal comment period does not
14 end until August 1st, 2024, and you can also submit your
15 written comments via email, the Smart Online Comment
16 Portal, mail, or fax. The format of submitting a public
17 comment, orally or in writing, does not impact DPR's
18 consideration or weight given to that comment. DPR asks
19 that you direct your comments specifically to the content
20 of the proposed modifications, focusing on what changes you
21 would make to improve them. In addition, if there are
22 elements of the proposed modifications that you
23 particularly are supportive of, please let us know.

24 And finally, please demonstrate mutual respect
25 for each other and this process. You may not agree with

1 someone else's comments, but I ask that you refrain from
2 making personal remarks about other speakers or their
3 comments. It is important that each person be heard and
4 this hearing to be conducted in a courteous manner.

5 I will ask the room to be quiet while others are
6 making their comments. As I mentioned earlier, we are in a
7 very large room that echoes, so be aware of that.

8 At this time, anyone who wishes to make a comment
9 orally during this hearing, please be sure to sign up at
10 the table at the back of the room. Seek out a DPR staff
11 member to sign up to provide a public comment. Persons
12 will be heard in the order they have been signed up.

13 And so when I call your name, please come to the
14 microphone and then state and spell your name, for the
15 benefit of the transcriber before you begin your comment,
16 and we'll start your time after you have stated your name.
17 All right, and then so when I call somebody I will also
18 call the next person that comes up.

19 So let's see, again, we do have a big list of
20 people that want to provide comments. So if you have
21 already provided a comment, please consider donating your
22 spot to somebody else.

23 All right, so our first commenter is Eulalia
24 Mendoza. And after Eulalia will be Judy Diana Alvarado.

25 MS. MENDOZA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good

1 afternoon, my name is Eulalia Mendoza. I am an organizer
2 at Proyecto Mixteco Indígena, a nonprofit that represents
3 fieldworkers in Ventura County. Today I'm here to demand
4 that DPR provide the exact location for our community.

5 Our community is the most vulnerable in our
6 communities. They're working eight hours a day in the
7 fields in Ventura County. Currently, they're preparing the
8 soil so that we can plant strawberries for summer. They're
9 using a restricted pesticide. It smells a lot when you
10 walk by there.

11 The agricultural workers in Ventura County or
12 any other county do not have the option of being able to
13 choose whether they want to go to work or not. You have to
14 work in this country because you have to pay your rent, you
15 have to pay your bills, so you don't have a choice. You
16 have to work.

17 So we're not asking for anything out of the
18 ordinary. We're just asking to know the exact location so
19 that the workers can protect themselves using an N95 mask
20 or any other material that can protect them.

21 I wasn't going to come today to offer my comment
22 because I had offered a comment by Zoom previously, but I'm
23 here because my sister has been in bed for a week. She got
24 a skin eruption on her face and it's oozing, it's burning,
25 it's itchy. She went to the hospital and they said they

1 couldn't do anything. This is something that we often go
2 through.

3 I am a cancer survivor. I have a ten-year-old
4 grandson and he can't learn how to read or write. They
5 took him to the doctor and the doctor said he can't learn
6 because he is dumb. He's not dumb, he's like that because
7 his mom worked in the strawberry fields while she was
8 pregnant.

9 Thank you so much.

10 SPANISH INTERPRETER MONROY: Now Yuridiana, and
11 after Yuridiana, Maricela Mendez.

12 MS. Y. ALVARADO: (Via Spanish Interpreter.)
13 Good afternoon, my name is Yuridiana. I am a community
14 organizer from Fieldworker Leaders in Ventura. I'm very
15 worried and I'm here to share my concerns as to the
16 pesticide notification system and things that need to
17 improve before it's implemented on a statewide level.

18 It's important that we have the exact location
19 where the pesticides are being sprayed so that we can avoid
20 going by that area and that way protect our family.

21 Thank you so much.

22 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: And after Maricela will
23 be Maria Perales.

24 Please state and spell your name for the
25 transcriber.

1 MS. MENDEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hello,
2 good afternoon. My name is Maricela Mendez. I am a member
3 of Líderes Campesinas, which is Fieldworkers Leaders, and
4 I'm here also to express my concern. We're here, well, I'm
5 here representing my organization, Fieldworker Leaders,
6 Líderes Campesinas.

7 I want to ask that we be provided with the exact
8 location because that's the only way that we will be able
9 to protect ourselves, protect ourselves, protect our
10 families, especially our children.

11 Because since I'm a fieldworker, something very
12 similar happened to me also. So I felt very dizzy at work
13 and I was told, don't worry, it's because you're not
14 drinking enough water, but I do stop to drink water. And
15 that day when we were working, the tractors were going by,
16 the tractors that apply the pesticides, they were right
17 next to us. They weren't that far away. And I didn't know
18 what -- that's what they were doing, and I suddenly felt so
19 dizzy that I even fell. And a coworker that was next to
20 me, because I cried out, I said I don't feel well, and they
21 had me sit down on the side in the shadow. They gave me a
22 little bit of water and I started feeling nauseous and
23 dizzy and I couldn't stand it, and I thought, what's going
24 on? I didn't know that it was because of the pesticides
25 But over time I realized or I found out that other

1 coworkers were also feeling ill.

2 And so that's our concern. We want to ask you to
3 please send us the exact location so that we can know and
4 that way be able to take care of our family, protect our
5 families, protect our old people that are elderly and they
6 can't withstand as much.

7 And that's my comment. Thank you so much for
8 listening to me. Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: After Maria will be Ana
10 Rosa Rizos-Centino.

11 MS. PERALES: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hello,
12 good afternoon. My name is Maria Perales, M-A-R-I-A
13 P-E-R-A-L-E-S. I'm a member of Fieldworker Leaders. I'm a
14 fieldworker myself. I'm a resident of this area, and I'm
15 very concerned. And I want to comment on the concerns that
16 we all share as to the pesticide application plan.

17 I want you to include a notification, the
18 location before you implement this on a statewide level.
19 It's important that this include the exact location of
20 pesticide application so that we can protect ourselves,
21 because we are never informed what pesticides are being
22 placed on the crops.

23 And many times, and I have lived through this
24 myself, pesticides have been applied two feet away from us.
25 And there are times that, because of the air, I have felt

1 the pesticide drops on me. I've struggled for over 16
2 years with allergies. When I notified the managers, I was
3 told that it was because of the powder that the plant gave
4 off itself. And I went to the doctor and I was told, no,
5 this is pesticide residue that you're subject to every day.

6 It's not enough for us to cover our mouths with a
7 handkerchief, because that's what we do. We place a cloth
8 over our face, and we always have our hands gloved or
9 covered. We use gloves, but that's not enough because
10 oftentimes the pesticides can go through the gloves that we
11 use.

12 And I'm here to ask that we be provided with the
13 exact location of where you're going to be applying the
14 pesticide.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Maria.

17 And then after Ana Rosa will be Irma Arredondo.

18 MS. RIZO-CENTINO: Ana Rizo-Centino. That's
19 spelled A-N-A R-O-S-A R-I-Z-O dash C-E-N-T-I-N-O.

20 I wish I could say it's a good evening, but it's
21 not. I am tired of coming to these hearings, as I'm sure a
22 lot of the folks here are tired of coming to these
23 meetings. We could be at home with our families having
24 dinner. We are tired of having to come to these meetings
25 to prove our humanity, that we are worth being treated with

1 respect, which is all that this is. To be asking for exact
2 location is a simple means of protection. It is not
3 restriction, as some people are arguing.

4 And before we came in here, I heard one of many
5 stories I've heard from a farmworker mother who has had to
6 have -- gave birth to a child that had a deformity. Her
7 child was born without an arm. And she is one among many
8 and that's if they get to be born. Some kids don't even
9 get to be born because there are miscarriages due to
10 pesticide.

11 So let us remember that we are not disposable.
12 We are the ones who feed you. Without us, you do not have
13 breakfast, you do not have lunch, you do not have dinner,
14 and we deserve at the very minimum respect now.

15 (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Exact location now.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next is Irma
17 Arredondo, and after Irma will be Danny Galbeso.

18 MS. ARREDONDO: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
19 afternoon. I'm going to speak in Spanish. I am the person
20 who had a baby without -- that was missing her arm. And
21 I'm here because I want to be the voice of the fieldworkers
22 who are women, such as I was, because it's so painful when
23 one of your children is born without a leg, without an arm.
24 And you cry. You cry not for yourself, but you cry for
25 their future. What can they expect when their mother's a

1 fieldworker, maybe a single mom?

2 So I'm here and I'm hearing people say that they
3 continue to apply pesticides, but now they do it silently.
4 The houses have fields right next to the homes nowadays.
5 There are elderly people living there, children with
6 chronic illness.

7 And I have COPD. I didn't used to have COPD, but
8 now I do. And it seems that it's because of the
9 pesticides, et cetera, but as a result of everything that
10 we breathe, we have negative consequences.

11 And the problems our children have at school, at
12 Delano, there are schools right next to fields. They spray
13 there and the children are playing outside on the grass in
14 the morning when they're spraying. And you think, oh, it's
15 the change in weather. No, that's not what the problem is.
16 It's that they sprayed pesticides the previous evening.

17 That's why I'm here, because I want to say it's
18 not fair. I've been working in the field since the '80s,
19 and I've seen that there haven't been very many changes.
20 They just hide the pesticide. They don't notify people.
21 That's not right.

22 We are human beings that are worth, that have
23 value for the grower, for the company, they benefit by our
24 work. And we don't get paid salaries that are equal to our
25 being, breathing in that air. Sometimes we don't even make

1 enough to pay for the doctor.

2 So good afternoon, everyone. What do we want?

3 We want the exact location. Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next is Danny Galbeso.

5 And then after Danny will be Dora Hernandez.

6 MR. GALBESO: Hello, my name is Danny Galbeso. I
7 live next door to a guy who sprays every other day, every
8 day, every night. When I go out next door in the field, he
9 sprays, he sprays at nighttime, he sprays in the daytime,
10 and I have asthma. And the other night, I couldn't even
11 breathe. I had to have an inhaler in my mouth for until
12 one o'clock in the morning. And now I have scratches all
13 over my body. I can't even stand it no more.

14 So now if something will happen, maybe, but if
15 the guy doesn't, you know, the farmer doesn't want to stop
16 spraying, what are you going to do? He sprays every single
17 day, every single night. What can I do?

18 All right, thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Danny.

20 Okay, next is Dora Hernandez, and then after Dora
21 is Socorro Guzman.

22 MS. D. HERNANDEZ: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Dora Hernandez. I live in the Mexican Colony in one of the
24 disadvantaged communities in the outskirts of Shafter.
25 We're located like three miles south of Shafter. There are

1 several disadvantaged communities. There's Cherokee Strip,
2 the community along Bear Bank (phonetic), the Mexican
3 Colony, and Smith's Corner. We are all lined with orchards
4 that are adjacent to our communities.

5 In our community, Big John Road is where the
6 students catch the bus. Their boarding and the place where
7 they get off is only about 12 feet away from the first row
8 of the almond orchard. We have an orchard to our north,
9 and that's just across the street from Bear Bank Avenue.
10 We have an orchard to our west, and that's just, it's a
11 small road, so that's even less distance. Our high school
12 students catch the bus at that corner of Bear Bank and
13 Mantle (phonetic) and they're only a few feet away from
14 both of the orchards across Bear Bank.

15 I think it is imperative that you consider
16 notifying all of our communities because we all matter.
17 The growers, it's imperative for them to notify each other
18 when they're going to spray to protect the bees. I think
19 we should be valued and respected that much.

20 There are a lot of cardiorespiratory illnesses
21 among our populations because we have been bombarded with a
22 lot of spray drift throughout the years. And I think it's
23 time that DPR stand up and do something for the communities
24 that provide your food and services to the state of
25 California and to the world.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Dora.

3 Okay, up next is Socorro Guzman, and then after
4 Socorro will be Eloisa Fernandez. Socorro? No? Is Eloisa
5 Hernandez? Okay, we might come back to you guys.

6 Maria Isabel Ramirez, and then after Maria Isabel,
7 Juan Manuel Moran.

8 MS. RAMIREZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
9 afternoon everyone. My name is Isabel Ramirez. I am here
10 before all of you. I don't know how many times I've come,
11 I don't know if this is the fourth or the fifth time I've
12 lost track, but I wanted to wait until the end like you
13 asked us to wait, but since I saw that these other people
14 had not come up, I have come up.

15 I thought this was going to be the last time, but
16 apparently it's not going to be the last. I think there's
17 another date. I thought we were finally going to be able
18 to rest. I think you're going to have to see me again, and
19 I apologize for that.

20 But I'm a mom. I'm a wife. I'm a cousin, a
21 niece, daughter, neighbor. I'm the mother of people that
22 work in the fields. I'm the mother of a child that has
23 been affected. Last time I spoke, I commented about his
24 situation.

25 And more than anything else, I want to say that

1 we need the exact location, not so that we can go to the
2 site where the pesticides will be applied. We need to know
3 the exact location so we can run away from there, so that
4 we can close our windows, so that we don't walk by there,
5 so that we not hang our clothes out to dry, because there
6 are people in this day and age that still hang their
7 clothes on a clothesline. I guess I'm old-fashioned, and
8 I'm surrounded by agricultural fields.

9 We need, we all need here, need this. We need
10 the exact location. All of us here are worried. We're
11 concerned. Listen to our voices. We are the voice of many
12 people who can't be here today because they don't have the
13 time or they don't have the courage to be here and stand
14 before all of you to tell you, we need for you to do
15 something for humanity, something for our children.

16 We don't need any more special-needs children.
17 We don't need more damaged families. We've already been
18 damaged enough. Our families have experienced a lot of
19 harm and we need something to be done. We need the exact
20 location.

21 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Isabel.

22 Juan Manuel Moran. And after Juan Manuel will be
23 Alexia Rangel.

24 MR. MORAN: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Yes, good
25 afternoon. My name is Juan Manuel Moran. And I think that

1 I'm repeating what a lot of other people have already said,
2 that it's very important that you provide us with the exact
3 location of where pesticides are applied. For example, if
4 you send me a location close to my home but I'm out working
5 someplace else, what good does it do me to know the
6 location at my house or close to my house or the addresses
7 that I provide?

8 For example, I live in Greenfield. At the
9 schools that are close to the fields, I mean, the school is
10 right here, there's fence and right next -- right there are
11 the fields. Saturdays and Sundays, we sometimes go to the
12 park. These are parks. There are also a lot of places
13 where young people go play baseball, basketball, whatever.
14 So what good does it do me to get the notification that
15 pertains to my house if I go to the park and they sprayed
16 close by there? It's time for you to do something.

17 And the groups that have been here talking about
18 pesticides have been fighting for this for five or six
19 years. I am a representative of fieldworker
20 representatives, and every year, year after year, we
21 present the same requests, and here in the valleys close to
22 McFarland and Elmar, in the '80s, a lot of children were
23 born with birth defects. You can look in the records and
24 you'll find that.

25 So it's high time. The politicians receive money

1 from the growers and they don't do anything, so it's time
2 for them to stop because it's going to affect them and
3 their families because all of the fruits, all of the
4 vegetables have pesticide residue and they're ingesting
5 that as well as in large cities. If we don't do anything,
6 we're all going to end up sick.

7 We're affecting our air, our land, our aquifers.
8 There are places where you can't drink the water anymore
9 because of this.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. RANGEL: Hello. I am Alexia Rangel and a co-
12 founder of Future Leaders of Change.

13 Please don't waste the \$10 million you got for
14 the Statewide Pesticide Notification Plan by continuing to
15 keep pesticide applications secret. If police came to my
16 house to warn me that a guy was shooting a cancer-causing
17 chemical in the air and I asked, where, officer, I would
18 want a more useful answer than, oh, somewhere in this
19 square mile, but that's what your proposed system will tell
20 me.

21 This system will not work without the public
22 knowing exactly where the pesticides are being applied. It
23 won't work for me for sure. I urge you to add exact
24 location.

25 Thank you.

1 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Alexia.
2 Eileen. After Eileen, we'll have --

3 MS. GIRON: I don't have an organization, but I
4 will speak Tagalog.

5 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay.

6 MS. GIRON: Some people are -- you have a lot of
7 voices that don't speak English at all. I already told you
8 last time, you need to bring Tagalog. And I don't know if
9 you're going to be understanding what I'm going to say.

10 (Comments were given in Tagalog and not transcribed.)

11 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Eileen.

12 Okay, I'm going to try Socorro Guzman one more
13 time, or Alicia Hernandez. No? Okay.

14 Our next person is Yuviria Lopez, I hope I said
15 that right, and then after Yuviria, Ofelia Ochoa.

16 MS. LOPEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hello,
17 good afternoon, everyone. My name is Yuviria Lopez from
18 Fieldworker Leaders. I am the daughter of fieldworkers. I
19 also worked in the fields. Now I'm a community outreach
20 organizer. I'm a mom. I have two kids with asthma.

21 I'm here because I'm worried, because we've been
22 working very hard. We went to go talk to Ed, who is the
23 Agricultural Commissioner, and I heard from a colleague
24 that he said that they can't give us the exact location
25 because they're afraid that the organizations that are

1 interested in our health, nobody else is interested in our
2 health, that we would go there to create problems or to
3 agitate. That's not true, that's a lie.

4 And I'm very sad to see that somebody is
5 worried -- that the system is more worried about one owner
6 being inconvenienced instead of the health of all of the
7 workers in the fields. We need the exact location,
8 otherwise it will be worthless.

9 And it's a mockery for them to be telling us,
10 okay, we're going to let you know what pesticides will be
11 applied 24 hours ahead of time, but we're not going to tell
12 you where. That doesn't do me any good. I can be within a
13 one-mile radius, but if I don't know where it is, I don't
14 know what to do so that I can protect myself. We shouldn't
15 have to protect ourselves. Our authorities should be the
16 ones protecting us, but we want to do our work because we
17 care about our health, the health of our children, and we
18 care about the health of the community.

19 Exact location now.

20 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next will be Felipa
21 Trujillo.

22 MS. OCHOA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
23 afternoon. My name is Ofelia Ochoa. I'm from the Las
24 Panchas organization. I have three children. The youngest
25 is a child that has a disability. He has Down syndrome and

1 he's autistic.

2 We need to know the exact location so that we can
3 know where they're going to be applying the pesticides.
4 We've heard the testimony of so many people, real people,
5 as to the harm that this has caused to them. Please pay
6 attention to what we're saying.

7 It's also very important, and I think it's a
8 total lack of respect, for there not to be translation into
9 Tagalog and other languages. There are people from
10 different places here that speak different languages. We
11 are all brothers and sisters. We all have a right to know
12 what is being spoken. We need this translation.

13 We need the exact location. As I said before, I
14 live in Lenodo (phonetic), which is a community where there
15 are a lot of special needs children, and we know that that
16 has a lot to do with the pesticides. There are a lot of
17 elderly people there that have asthma and different
18 allergies. My little boy has asthma.

19 Please stop ignoring us. Please listen to us.
20 We don't just want to come and talk without any goal. We
21 want you to take action. We want you to listen to us.
22 It's so hot, and we take up our time, and then for you not
23 to listen to us, that's not fair. Please pay attention to
24 what we're asking, which is the exact location. We believe
25 that, yes, you can. Can we? Yes, we can.

1 Thank you.

2 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next, Felipa
3 Trujillo, and then after Felipe will be Noemi Chica.

4 Felipa?

5 Okay, we'll move on to Noemi. And then after
6 Noemi, Mark Weller.

7 MS. CHICA: Hello. I'm a parent, an educator,
8 and a member of SAAS, Safe Ag Safe Schools. I'm a proud
9 mother of Alexia Rangel, a co-founder of Future Leaders of
10 Change.

11 We have been going to Ventura, Watsonville,
12 Sacramento, Tulare, Turlock, and now Shafter to have exact
13 location. We need to protect our children and our
14 Campesinas, our indigenous people and our people of color,
15 our community. We are here to remind you that we are the
16 producers and consumers of fruits and vegetables. Protect
17 us.

18 The pilot project told us, above all, that
19 communities want the exact location of pesticide
20 applications in a notification system. Dozens of public
21 comments, and more than 99 percent of them, I believe,
22 called for the exact location of pesticide applications in
23 a notification system.

24 The only reason you appear to give us as to why
25 your plan does not include the exact location of pesticide

1 applications in a notification system is that the location
2 information is not standardized on the Notices of Intent,
3 NOI. So standardize it. You are standardizing the
4 submission of NOIs by requiring they be made online, adding
5 space for field address on the online submission form.
6 Come on, \$10 million for this program and you're going to
7 waste it by not providing information to which you have
8 access and which the public wants more than anything else?
9 All evidence tells us this system will fail without exact
10 location. I believe if you've been paying any attention to
11 public feedback, you know that.

12 We also need more languages. We need for our
13 brothers here, for our sisters, Filipinos, for our Triquis,
14 Mixtecos, and et cetera.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Noemi.

17 Up next, Mark Weller. After Mark will be
18 Esmeralda Blanco.

19 MR. WELLER: Yeah. Good evening. I'm Mark
20 Weller, W-E-L-L-E-R, from California's Pesticide Reform,
21 and resident of Santa Cruz, and a member of Safe Ag Safe
22 Schools.

23 I agree with all the 14 previous speakers on the
24 need for exact location in the statewide pesticide
25 notification system. The scientific research tells us that

1 the closer one is to the pesticide application, the
2 tendency is for higher concentrations of pesticides in the
3 air, soil, and in homes.

4 We should be concerned about some pesticides
5 applied miles away, like fumigants. But in most cases, an
6 application in the field behind your house requires even
7 greater precautions than an application a mile away. The
8 current proposal doesn't let us know the difference.

9 We also know DPR's air monitoring studies over
10 the last 12 years have recorded the presence of many
11 restricted pesticides in the air on school grounds,
12 including Sequoia Elementary here in Shafter. In fact,
13 these studies have found concentrations of the cancer-
14 causing fumigant 1,3-D far above, many times above at
15 Sequoia Elementary, the Lifetime Cancer Risk Level
16 designated by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard
17 Assessment in our state.

18 It's not notification without location. Thank
19 you.

20 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Mark.

21 Okay, up next is Esmeralda Blanco. After
22 Esmeralda will be Irene Gomez.

23 MS. BLANCO: Notification without exact location
24 is not notification. Good evening. My name is Esmeralda
25 Blanco, E-S-M-E-R-A-L-D-A B-L-A-N-C-O, and I live in

1 Oxnard.

2 I don't understand why the draft regulation on
3 pesticide notification doesn't include exact field location
4 information. How can my family protect itself when we
5 don't know if upcoming applications are coming from the
6 field closest to us or from a mile away?

7 Please correct the draft regulation and make sure
8 it includes specific field location information, which I
9 understand is available in advance of applications but is
10 currently hidden from the public.

11 If you had a daughter who was missing an arm,
12 couldn't breathe, or had disabilities, would you still be
13 standing here today?

14 Thank you for your consideration.

15 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Esmeralda.

16 Okay, up next, Irene Gomez. After Irene will be
17 Ana Mendoza.

18 MS. GOMEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
19 afternoon. My name is Irene Gomez, I-R-E-N-E G-O-M-E-Z,
20 from Ventura County, and I am here to advocate on behalf of
21 my community.

22 My community is Niland Acres. As you know, two
23 years ago, in my community, a pilot project was implemented
24 as a test and it did not work. And why didn't it work?
25 Because it didn't include exact location. All that

1 happened is that we were more scared and more stressed
2 because we never knew when pesticides were being applied
3 nearby.

4 Also, back in 1995, and this has been proven in
5 my community, we had a cluster of children born with
6 attention deficit disorder. I imagine you know this.

7 So we're not here to ask, we're here to demand
8 exact location. Can it be done?

9 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Irene.

10 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next will be Ana
11 Mendoza. After Ana, Emmanuel Juarez.

12 MS. MENDOZA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
13 afternoon, my name is Ana Mendoza, member of CAPS 805, and
14 I am a mother of a son and the wife of an ag worker.

15 And the reason why I am here today is to ask you
16 to include in your state notification system the exact
17 location of the field where the pesticide is to be applied.
18 If DPR is going to create a statewide notification system,
19 then it would be better to do it right from the outset by
20 providing the exact location. This will allow our
21 agricultural worker communities and everyone else,
22 fieldworkers, children, adults and the public at large, to
23 protect themselves against being poisoned and sprayed like
24 the other woman said.

25 We demand exact location now.

1 Thank you.

2 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you.

3 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Emanuel Juarez. After
4 Emmanuel is Raul Garcia.

5 MR. JUAREZ: Hi. My name is Emmanuel. I want
6 the exact location. We need the exact location.

7 Today I'm here to demand that the Department
8 listen to us communities and place the exact location into
9 the notification system.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Emmanuel.

12 Okay, up next, Raul Garcia. And after Raul,
13 Jesus Verduzco.

14 MR. VERDUZCO: Thank you. Let's see here. That
15 way I can -- okay. Hello, everyone. My name is Raul
16 Garcia, that's R-A-U-L G-A-R-C-I-A. For the record, I live
17 in Porterville, California, and I'm with the Coalition
18 Advocating for Pesticide Safety based out of Lindsay,
19 California.

20 I came here to share some concerns and feedbacks
21 from individuals that actually did participate in the beta
22 notification programs in Cutler-Rossi and Terra Bella, and
23 some of the major feedback that they had about the beta
24 program was that they were not feeling that they were
25 getting notified enough. They saw lots of applications

1 going on and they were getting no text notifications, they
2 weren't getting any calls, they weren't getting any
3 anything, and a lot of them wondered, well, was this
4 restricted? Was this not?

5 One thing to that, a lot of them, also, another
6 issue a lot of them had at the time of the year that this
7 beta took place. A lot of these betas took place during
8 times of the year where spring was at a low. So they did
9 not feel it was an accurate representation of the living
10 conditions that they actually lived through day to day in
11 the spring, summer, and fall seasons when spring is at its
12 height.

13 They also had complaints about the website being
14 difficult to navigate, not just because of the language
15 barrier, but because of the format on the mobile device.
16 They said it looks like it was formatted more for a
17 desktop, as well, so probably something more optimal for
18 mobile devices.

19 And something that came up a lot was exact
20 location. And this is something they brought up on their
21 own. They want to be able to know exact locations so that
22 they can make the lifestyle adjustments. They're not
23 asking the growers or the applicators to stop spraying or
24 to spray at different times or to spray in different ways.
25 They're asking to know exact locations so that they can

1 find different, you know, alternate routes, maybe to
2 school, to work, to the doctor, bring the kids in, don't go
3 outside.

4 So this is feedback from people that actually
5 have experience with the program you guys are trying to run
6 here and this is stuff that they have to say.

7 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay.

8 MR. R. GARCIA: Thank you very much.

9 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Raul.

10 Okay, up next is Jesus Verduzco. After Jesus
11 will be Sasha Alvarez.

12 MR. VERDUZCO: Hello. Good evening, My name is
13 Jesus. I'm a graduate from the college of UC Irvine.

14 I'm here today to ask, why can't our communities
15 receive the exact location? Is it an issue of cost or is
16 it a lack of political will?

17 I am here to urge DPR to not implement a
18 statewide notification system without the exact location.
19 There is not a goodenough reason to not include the exact
20 location. The unsustainable assumption that people would
21 trespass onto a farm is simply not a good enough excuse.

22 The greater threat and the more likely scenario
23 is that harmful amounts of pesticides would drift into our
24 schools. It is more likely that pesticides would trespass
25 onto our homes, onto our schools, and expose nearby

1 residents to harmful pesticides.

2 According to the National Institutes of Health,
3 the NIH, pesticide exposure can cause skin and eye
4 irritation, nausea, headaches, and has been correlated to
5 more serious illnesses, some of which we've heard today.
6 According to the National Center for Farmworker Health, an
7 estimated 78 percent of farmworkers identify as Latino.

8 So I ask again, is it an issue of cost or is it a
9 lack of political will?

10 This is not a matter of cost or even a matter of
11 privacy, it is a matter of acting on behalf of
12 underrepresented communities in California and in this
13 nation. I urge you to do the right thing and to include
14 the exact location in the statewide notification system.

15 Yes, we can.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: okay, thank you, Jesus.

17 Up next is Sasha Alvarez. And after Sasha will
18 be Jennifer Alvarez.

19 MS. S. ALVAREZ: Hello, everyone. I'm super
20 excited to be here in person to address such a pressing
21 issue in my community and other ag grow towns like Shafter.
22 My name is Sasha Alvarez, S-A-S-H-A, Alvarez,
23 A-L-V-A-R-E-Z. I'm here representing Ventura County as a
24 concerned resident, a student fellow with the United Farm
25 Workers Union, and a soon-to-be honors graduate of the

1 University of California Santa Barbara.

2 While I appreciate the steps that the state of
3 California is taking with the new alert system proposed by
4 the DPR to notify agricultural workers about pesticide
5 spraying in applications, there is a fundamental flaw. A
6 crucial piece of the puzzle is missing. Rather than
7 providing precise locations, they are trying to make us
8 settle for a one-mile radius where pesticides have been
9 applied.

10 Let me be clear and stand firm in this statement
11 that this isn't enough and will never be enough. We aren't
12 asking for luxuries here, we're demanding basic rights and
13 that you respect them. What our essential workers deserve
14 and demand is exact location information, not vague
15 approximations. They have shown their value time and time
16 again, and especially during crises, like the global COVID-
17 19 pandemic or natural disasters heightened by the adverse
18 effects of climate change.

19 Last week, I laid it out, but maybe I wasn't
20 clear enough, our request isn't about greed, it's about
21 justice and equality. We are here demanding the right to
22 what is already available and what is rightfully ours.
23 Instead of the crumbs from your table, which ironically
24 comes from the food these workers plant, cultivate, and
25 harvest, we're demanding full transparency.

1 Government and private research, including
2 studies conducted by your own Department, the DPR,
3 highlight the risks associated with pesticide exposure,
4 particularly for vulnerable groups like children and
5 pregnant women. If these risks are well documented, why
6 aren't we ensuring this crucial information is accessible
7 to those who need it most?

8 And to those here today with opposing views,
9 opposing this transparency, thank you for revealing your
10 true priorities, profit over people. Your actions speak
11 volumes about your complete disregard for the well-being of
12 your agricultural workers. You are favoring secrecy that
13 benefits your bottom line at the expense of our environment
14 and families. Hiding behind corporate interests that fill
15 your pockets only exposes your moral bankruptcy and I feel
16 for you.

17 I hope you can side with humanity on this one,
18 please, and thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Sasha.

20 Up next is Jennifer Alvarez. And after Jennifer
21 is Sandra Melgoza.

22 MS. J. ALVAREZ: Good afternoon. It's an honor
23 to be here in solidarity with those in my community who are
24 afraid to speak in front of the ranchers and people in
25 power that sit before me today. My name is Jennifer

1 Alvarez, a recent graduate from the University of
2 California Santa Barbara where I studied sociology and got
3 a better understanding of the systems that we live in and
4 the part that uneducated, socially unaware people like you
5 play in it.

6 Most recently, I was placed with the United Farm
7 Workers as a fellow for eight weeks where I have been
8 putting my knowledge to practice. Two minutes isn't enough
9 for me to explain the importance and urgency for you to
10 move forward with the statewide implementation of a
11 historic system that provides information on the exact
12 location of the planned application of restricted toxic
13 pesticide material. But I can explain the importance to
14 you in sociological terms.

15 Sociologist C. Wright Mills coins the term
16 sociological imagination, which is why I stand before you
17 here today. The sociological imagination is the ability to
18 grasp the relationship between history and biography to
19 help people understand their personal experience in the
20 context of social and historical forces.

21 Additionally, Mills describes how private
22 troubles, such as the personal problems that individuals
23 navigate, are often blamed on their personal shortcomings
24 or failures. This coincides with public issues that are
25 described as social problems, like the consistent use of

1 toxic pesticides without warning that affect many people
2 that are a result of social and cultural systems made up of
3 uneducated racist growers and cultural systems that are
4 made up like gas lighters, like you guys in the back over
5 there looking right over here, speaking.

6 Through my work with the United Farm Workers,
7 I've learned the harsh realities of pesticides in the
8 fields and the communities. Implementing a system like
9 this shouldn't need a forum because of all the known and
10 well-documented damages it causes to ecosystems,
11 farmworkers, their families, and the surrounding
12 communities, made largely up of people of color. Did you
13 know that black and Latino communities and families breathe
14 in 56 to 63 percent more pollution than they produce, while
15 all white people breathe in 17 percent less?

16 It's a privilege to stand before you here today
17 as a student, working with United Farm Workers, urging you
18 to approve this historic move to establish a transparent
19 pesticide notification system. It's disappointing and
20 disgusting that you sit here tonight in front of my
21 community knowing the true effects of pesticides, defending
22 the growers who value profits more than the lives of
23 farmworkers that they rely on.

24 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Jenny.
25 We need Sandra to take her turn.

1 MS. J. ALVAREZ: You would have nothing without
2 farmworkers. And the lack of initiative to protect their
3 lives speak volumes of the people that you are. Thank you
4 very little.

5 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Jennifer.

6 Our next person is Sandra Melgoza. After Sandra
7 is Cecilia Lopez.

8 MS. PLACENCIA: Hi. My name is Sandra Melgoza
9 Placencia, that's S-A-N-D-R-A M-E-L-G-O-Z-A Plasencia. I
10 am a current policy advocate with Leadership Council for
11 Justice and Accountability. Thank you for the opportunity
12 to comment.

13 Leadership Council works within the communities
14 of Fuller Acres and Lamont. In Fuller Acres, according to
15 CalEnviroScreen 4.0, there is a 96 percentile of pesticide
16 use within Fuller Acres. This is a community that is
17 completely burdened right in front of a refinery, being
18 affected by various environmental pollutions, and they also
19 have to deal with pesticides. Their drinking water is
20 currently in violation and has 1,2,3-TCP in it, which stems
21 from pesticides.

22 Folks in this community have told us for years
23 that they have developed cancer in their stomach, in their
24 lungs, in their legs. Even their dogs have died of cancer.
25 This is inexcusable. We cannot keep letting low-income

1 communities, people that look like all of us in this room,
2 continue to bear and get burdened by pesticide usage.

3 All we're asking for is an exact location of
4 where pesticides will be sprayed. We want to be treated
5 like humans. If you are going to do something, do it
6 right. Stop selling our community short. Give us exact
7 locations of where pesticides are going to be placed
8 because we're humans and we deserve it too and for decades
9 we've been ignored by local government, by state
10 government.

11 So please, let us know and tell us where exactly
12 pesticides are being sprayed. You get to know 48 hours in
13 advance. We should have the exact right to know where
14 they're going to be placed.

15 Thank you.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Sandra.

17 Okay, up next is Cecilia Lopez. And after
18 Cecilia, Flor Alvarado.

19 MS. C. LOPEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
20 afternoon, everyone. I am Cecilia Lopez and I'm here from
21 Bakersfield and I represent Líderes Campesinas. And I am
22 also a fieldworker, I've been so for 16 years, so I am a
23 very important and essential worker here to raise our
24 voice.

25 I have three children, two of them suffer asthma,

1 unfortunate. One has skin issues. And every day I work to
2 feed so many families. So I think it's very important to
3 have empathy. I think we're lacking empathy because these
4 chemicals and pesticides can impact anyone. And we
5 shouldn't have to wait until our families are personally
6 impacted for us to consider it important. We need new
7 regulations. We need changes for politicians to see.

8 All of us are tired. I got up at 3:30 this
9 morning, I worked in the fields, I went home, and I got
10 ready to come here. And I'm tired and I haven't eaten but
11 I am here because I know it's important. And all of you on
12 this side know how important it is to be here to create
13 change. Thank you. So I could just as easily be at home
14 resting.

15 Well, why are you here if you're tired, you might
16 say? Because I worry about my community. I worry about
17 its health. Their health is our right. We need healthy
18 children. In order to have a good future, we need a good
19 present. And if we work on it, change will come.

20 For years, we've been raising our voices and
21 change hasn't come yet. We need for change to happen.
22 Exact location would help us protect our families. If I
23 know the exact location, I can better protect my family.
24 So we need that exact location to be able to protect our
25 families and create change. We need empathy for that.

1 Again, this could impact any of you. Everyone
2 has a right to help. We are essential and we're here
3 because we need change.

4 Thank you everyone for being here.

5 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Cecilia.

6 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next is Flor
7 Alvarado. After Flor is Luz Castellanos.

8 MS. F. ALVARADO: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi.
9 Good afternoon. My name is Flor Alvarado. I am a
10 volunteer at Líderes Campesinas. I was an ag worker for
11 over 16 years. I have two daughters with illness. One is
12 a slow learner and can't hear well.

13 My personal issue is that I have some vision
14 problems due to pesticides, and I also have skin issues. I
15 have a lot of acne because when these pesticides are used,
16 you get these skin eruptions. Why? Because it helps other
17 things grow; right? It helps the crops grow.

18 So for me, it is very important to have a
19 notification system. Why? Why? People ask us, like why
20 do you think this notification system matters so much? To
21 protect my daughters. If I know where they're spraying, I
22 can close doors and windows, perhaps not turn on the AC,
23 because if I close the doors and they're spraying and I use
24 the AC, it makes no difference; right?

25 So I'm here to protect my daughters, my family,

1 my community, all of those people who are afraid to come.
2 They fear coming because they say they're not going to
3 listen to me. It's no good. But we do need a notification
4 system with exact location to protect ourselves.

5 So please -- well, I'm not asking anymore, it is
6 everyone's right to know what pesticides are being applied
7 and where, with the right location. That's why we're here.

8 For over three years, we've been working on this
9 notification system. When it first started, it didn't
10 work. We need a notification system that works for us.

11 Thank you.

12 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Flor.

13 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next is Luz
14 Castellanos. And after Luz, Bertha Romero.

15 MS. CASTELLANOS: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi.
16 Good afternoon. My name is Luz Castellanos, L-U-Z
17 C-A-S-T-E-L-L-A-N-O-S. I'm here from Bakersfield, and I'm
18 here to ask for exact location. I am a volunteer at
19 Líderes Campesinas.

20 I am the daughter of a bracero, as those
21 fieldworkers were called back then. My father worked for
22 many years in the fields here in the U.S. Regrettably, he
23 died of cancer. I suffer from asthma. My daughter suffers
24 from asthma. My husband works in the fields. I worked in
25 the fields for a while myself.

1 And I want to know the exact location, not only
2 of restricted-use pesticides, but the rest of the
3 pesticides, as well, because it isn't only restricted-use
4 pesticides that impact our health, all pesticides are bad
5 for our health.

6 As someone who suffers from asthma, it matters to
7 know the exact location so I can protect myself and protect
8 my daughter. Why? Because then I can close doors and
9 windows, I can turn my air purifier on and keep the AC
10 on -- off. Why keep the AC off? Because when the AC is
11 working, it sucks air into our house. So what good is it
12 to close doors and windows if that polluted air is being
13 sucked into the house?

14 So I ask -- I demand rather, it is our right, so
15 we're not just asking, we're demanding to be told the exact
16 location of all pesticide applications, not just restricted
17 use pesticides. We're important. Just like your lives
18 matter, our lives and our family's lives also matter.

19 Thank you very much.

20 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Luz.

21 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next, Bertha
22 Romero. After Bertha, Alma Cueva.

23 MS. ROMERO: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
24 afternoon. I am Bertha Romero. I'm not going to say
25 anything that hasn't been said yet, but we need to repeat

1 it tirelessly to elevate those voices and make sure we are
2 heard.

3 We need to know exact location of where the
4 pesticides are being applied in order to protect ourselves,
5 in order to protect our families, not for anything else.

6 Thank you.

7 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Bertha.

8 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next, Alma
9 Cueva. After Alma, I might say this one, Grettel Sanjuan.

10 MS. CUEVA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi. Good
11 evening. I am Alma Rodriguez Cuevas, and I am a member of
12 Líderes Campesinas, where I'm a volunteer.

13 And my experience was I worked in construction, I
14 worked in the fields, and I worked in gardening. How come
15 gardeners are prohibited from using certain chemicals? And
16 they're very strict with them because they're small
17 companies. Where ranchers have a lot of money, the
18 president comes and gives them as much water as they want,
19 which we don't have in California. But anyway, today's
20 session is about pesticides.

21 Pesticides are polluting everything, our soil.
22 New homes have even more polluted soil because there used
23 to be fields there. At schools, I'm in East Bakersfield,
24 and it's worse there. We have schools like the high school
25 where a lot of the kids have asthma, are sick, they can't

1 exercise, they're always tired. And they say, oh, it's
2 because they're from the poorest neighborhoods. And we go
3 to the doctor and what does the doctor say? Oh, you're not
4 getting enough nutrition. Well, we're not being able to.
5 We're not able to nourish ourselves because the best things
6 we produce are sent elsewhere.

7 Delano, Shafter, McFarland, Wasco. I've worked
8 all around, I've worked all around. I've worked all around
9 here, working picking grapes and pouring cement and out
10 there digging and all of the soil is polluted. They tell
11 us, you use a face mask, but that's not enough. A rancher
12 gives you a face mask for a whole month, so you have to buy
13 your own. And they give you these plastic gloves that
14 last, what, ten minutes before they tear and you're not
15 protected anymore?

16 And I would like for everyone to be aware of what
17 chemicals are being applied. Thank you.

18 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you.

19 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: I might be
20 mispronouncing, I apologize, Grettel Sanjuan? Is that even
21 close? Okay. Okay.

22 Maria Fride (phonetic)? Anybody Maria Fride?
23 Okay, there's a -- oh.

24 MS. FRIDE: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
25 afternoon. My name is Maria de Jesus Fride. And I am here

1 today to protest because of the pesticides.

2 I don't have much to say but I'm from outside of
3 this area in Shauster (phonetic). I live in the middle of
4 agricultural fields. And like another colleague just said,
5 I want to protect my family, my grandchildren. Two of my
6 grandchildren have asthma and I have respiratory problems.
7 And I was hearing somebody else talk about the problems
8 that you get from pesticides, and I've also had skin rashes
9 and I've had to go to the hospital. I have video, I have
10 proof of that.

11 Like I said, I live in Shauster, I think she
12 said, and they fumigate behind my home. My home is
13 sometimes surrounded by a cloud of pesticides that have
14 been sprayed and we oftentimes don't know where to turn to.

15 I wanted to go to the grower and ask him why are
16 you spraying at 2:00 p.m.? Because this is when children
17 play outside. I and my grandchildren were outside, but the
18 person who was out there spraying didn't care at all. It
19 seemed like we didn't matter to him as people. But I want
20 to say that if we, as fieldworkers, were not important,
21 then none of the crops would be harvested.

22 So I felt very sad and upset because it really
23 seemed like we didn't matter at all, that they don't
24 realize how important fieldworkers are. And I think it's
25 very sad because we all have a lot to do. We have a lot of

1 things to do but we're here today protesting because of
2 pesticide use.

3 Thank you.

4 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: 805 Organization. And
5 then is Maria from 805 -- after Maria, Civy Carranza from
6 Líderes Campesinas.

7 MARIA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi. Good
8 afternoon. My name is Maria, M-A-R-I-A, and I would like
9 to know why you cannot go to the task or action of giving
10 us the exact location. It's in your hands to avoid having
11 people get sick. When you come back from work, your
12 children come out to greet you, and you have pesticides
13 sometimes in your clothing and what happens is that our
14 children become ill because of that.

15 You have the authority to include the exact
16 location. You can save the life of many people. It's all
17 in your hands. It doesn't cost you anything. You have the
18 resources, the funds. You are given the funds so that you
19 can provide the exact location. You can do it.

20 There are many of us here today who didn't even
21 go home to have a bite to eat. We're here because we're
22 here for a cause, a cause that's important for our families
23 and our friends. You have the power, you have the right.
24 You don't go out to the fields, but if you could only go
25 and see how many people are ill. Many people go back to

1 their hometowns and they don't know that they're ill. And
2 we come up here to, you know, work hard, struggle. We
3 don't come to ask for anything but a chance to work.

4 So it's in your hands. Think of it. You can
5 save a lot of people, a lot of people who are already ill.
6 It doesn't cost you anything. Please, the exact location
7 now.

8 SPANISH INTERPRETER MONROY: Thank you, Maria.

9 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next is Civy Carranza.
10 And then after Civy is Osmin Chavez.

11 Okay, go ahead.

12 MS. CARRANZA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
13 afternoon. My name is Civy Carranza, and I'm a health
14 promoter, and I'm here representing Líderes Campesinas,
15 Fieldworker Leaders.

16 I have asthma. My dad was a bracero. He worked
17 in the field up here, and he also worked in the fields in
18 Mexico. And I would like to ask, as a favor, to please
19 listen to us to transmit what our voices are saying in the
20 higher spheres.

21 We have a lot of health problems. I have asthma.
22 I also have allergies. Sometimes I can't even breathe.
23 And it's also affected my memory, among other things. And
24 sometimes I wonder, you know, the babies and the children,
25 how much has it affected them? You know, you're already,

1 we're already adults, and you can talk and make yourself
2 understood. But imagine children, children that have been
3 affected by their moms that work in the fields, and they've
4 already been affected. I think that the law should say
5 that we need the exact location. It's very important for
6 us.

7 And something else is that we need to receive
8 more training because sometimes we don't know how to act
9 appropriately. We wear the clothing from the field home.
10 We don't change. We walk into the house with our clothing,
11 maybe, and then we change. Sometimes babies are crawling
12 on the floor, and they also have, then the pesticides
13 affect them from the fields.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Osmin Garcia.

16 MR. O. CHAVEZ: Good evening. My name is Osmin
17 Chavez and I live in Oxnard.

18 I call on you to create a fully transparent
19 pesticide notification system where upcoming pesticide
20 application information is available to all. Include the
21 exact location of the application site. I want to know
22 where the pesticides are being applied so I can avoid those
23 areas.

24 Thank you.

25 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Osmin.

1 Okay, Omar Garcia. After Omar, Elena
2 Pasquarella.

3 MR. O. GARCIA: Hello. I am Omar Garcia from
4 Oxnard, California.

5 The pesticide notification system is a historic
6 first step toward environmental justice. The notification
7 needs the exact location of the application site field so
8 that we can avoid the area and take better informed safety
9 precautions.

10 Thank you.

11 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Omar.

12 Okay, up next, Elena. And then after Elena,
13 Santiago Torres.

14 MS. PASQUARELLA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi.
15 My name is Yesenia Acosta. I am an organizer in Líderes
16 Campesinas, Fieldworker Leaders.

17 And I'm here to ask, how many more people have to
18 die prematurely for you to finally pay attention? How many
19 more children have to be born autistic? How many more
20 people have to have skin cancer? I don't understand. I
21 don't even understand why we're here because it's a right
22 that we are all entitled to. We're not mosquitoes, we're
23 not insects for you to be spraying us. We have to come
24 here to demand this.

25 I mean, if we -- does anybody think that we want

1 to be sprayed or poisoned? We have the right to decide.
2 We're here to ask. And for you not to be just, you know,
3 be promising but never coming through, we need the exact
4 location. That's a right.

5 SPANISH INTERPRETER MONROY: Can you please
6 repeat your name? The name is Yesenia.

7 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, up next --

8 MS. PASQUARELLA: Yes, that's me. My name is
9 Elena Pasquarella, that's P-A-S-Q-U-A-R-E-L-L-A, and I'm a
10 concerned citizen from Ojai in Ventura County.

11 I've been a social justice activist since I was
12 in high school, and later was an L.A. Times photojournalist
13 for about 20 years. Because I'm bilingual, I was assigned
14 to the stories about farmworkers, and as a result I saw the
15 harsh realities that they face on a daily basis regarding
16 work conditions, unfair labor practices, and health issues.

17 I ask you, what is the role of government? What
18 are you, as public officials, supposed to do? Number one,
19 you need to communicate honestly. Secondly, you need to
20 serve the people and protect our human rights. And most
21 importantly, you need to love us and care about us as if we
22 were part of your family.

23 As for the issue of pesticide notifications,
24 you're failing in your leadership. Why is it that 34 of
25 the pesticides being used in our communities are banned in

1 Europe but allowed to be applied here? Why is it that you
2 refuse to notify the public exactly where and when
3 pesticides are being applied? Why are you protecting farm
4 owners rather than farmworkers?

5 The answer is profits. Our society has chosen
6 people over profits. Because farmworkers are -- no, they
7 have chosen profits over people.

8 Because farmworkers are the most vulnerable
9 members of our society, I call on you to pass a bill that's
10 modified and that tells us where and when exactly the
11 pesticides are being applied. Thousands of farmworkers and
12 community members are counting on you to serve and protect
13 them as if they were your family members. I ask you to use
14 your heart and love for humanity when you decide what the
15 final notification will be.

16 I'd like to leave you with the words of Cesar
17 Chavez. "In a world, it is possible to achieve great
18 material wealth and to live an opulent life, but a life
19 built upon those things alone leaves a shallow legacy."

20 What will your legacy be?

21 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay. Okay, up next is
22 Santiago Torres.

23 MS. PADILLA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) My name
24 is Verónica García Padilla, and I am a member of Líderes
25 Campesinas.

1 I'm from the Wasco area, and I'm here to demand
2 that you notify us every time that you spray pesticides.
3 Many of my fellow coworkers that have spoken before me have
4 told you what the reason is, they've talked about
5 illnesses. We know that all pesticides, even the not-so-
6 bad ones, have silent illnesses, bring silent illnesses.

7 So that's why I'm demanding, not asking, because
8 my husband has worked in the field for many years, I demand
9 a transparent notification to protect me, my family, and my
10 community.

11 Thank you.

12 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next is Felipe Perez.

13 MR. TORRES: Good evening everyone. My name is
14 Santiago Torres. I am a co-founder of the Future Leaders
15 of Change. I come as a high school student from the City
16 of Greenfield.

17 I want to start off by saying the pesticide
18 notification system DPR is proposing is not good enough.
19 For five years, community members have been asking for a
20 system that includes exact field location information. I'm
21 appalled that after so many years of gathering public
22 comments, with nearly all of them calling for this
23 information, DPR is still not including exact field
24 information, even though County Ag Commissioners have it,
25 and even though we can get this information after the fact

1 via public records ag requests.

2 I'm appalled that DPR is even thinking of holding
3 back exact location information. What kind of warning
4 system skips out on giving precise details? Every other
5 environmental alert for fires, for smoke, et cetera, pins
6 down the exact danger spot.

7 You don't know what it's like to live near fields
8 where you know very hazardous pesticides are being applied
9 nearby, but you don't know what or when they're being
10 applied. The system DPR is proposing could be so positive
11 for community health. But as we saw with the pilot
12 projects, getting countless messages covering a whole
13 square mile area can be overwhelming and disempowering to
14 communities.

15 We need exact locations to be able to take
16 appropriate actions to stay safe. Please make this system
17 as strong as it can be for all of us.

18 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you
19 Santiago.

20 After Santiago is Felipe Perez. After Felipe is
21 Jenny Holtermann.

22 MR. PEREZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
23 evening, everyone. My name is Felipe Perez. I am ex-mayor
24 of Firebaugh and also a member of the City Council. I care
25 very much about everyone's life here.

1 I'm a farmworker. I continue to be a farmworker.
2 I was affected by pesticides when I was 13 years old, and I
3 know how badly you can be affected.

4 We're not asking for much. We're just asking you
5 to not be accomplices to more deaths, more suffering, more
6 illnesses. Stop being an accomplice. Act like any other
7 citizen would. You're not going to take anything with you
8 when you die, but you will have the appreciation of
9 everyone here when you do something for them, and you'll
10 see us cheering for you, and you'll see our faces telling
11 you thank you for everything that you've done, for
12 everything that you did.

13 Thank god we're all still here alive, most of us.
14 Some of us have come from two miles -- two hours away, some
15 from three hours away, but we're happy to be here because
16 we want you to hear us. But again, it's not going to cost
17 you anything if you listen to us, if you take action, and
18 do not be an accomplice to so much death and suffering. Q.

19 Yes, we can.

20 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Jenny Holtermann.

21 Jenny?

22 Michele McManus?

23 MS. HOLTERMANN: My name is Jenny Holtermann and
24 I am a fourth generation Kern County farmer.

25 Kern County farmers are very grateful for the

1 opportunity to continue the discussion around the NOI
2 system and have been actively engaged in this issue for
3 years. Unfortunately, we have many of the same concerns
4 that we still do not agree that public notification is
5 necessary or increases overall safety to the public.

6 Our biggest concern is that repeated
7 notifications of potential pesticide applications can lead
8 to greater public confusion and fear around safety. Access
9 to pending applications outside of a one-mile radius serve
10 no public or individual benefit, but rather instigate
11 unnecessary fear from repeated notifications that could be
12 hundreds or thousands of miles away. If DPR cannot
13 specifically validate these impacts, then the risk of
14 identifying site of application is too great.

15 If the Department's intent is to truly provide
16 greater transparency and a public right to know that
17 intention should not discriminate against agriculture.
18 Structural and regulatory pest control, fumigation,
19 landscape maintenance, and industrial use are commonly
20 listed in the top five categories of pesticide use across
21 all of California, yet they are not included in this public
22 notification system.

23 I also want to remind you of the efforts that we
24 have been doing for decades to encourage safety and
25 transparency in the agriculture industry. Nearly 20 years

1 ago, Kern County was the first in the state to offer a
2 Spray Safe Program where annually we host almost a thousand
3 farmworkers and farm employers in a full day of
4 demonstration on safe applications for agricultural
5 chemicals.

6 As farmers we too live in our agriculture
7 communities. I myself, along with my family, live in the
8 middle of one of our family farms. Our kids are often
9 found at work with us on our farm, playing in the orchards
10 and involved in our daily practices. Keeping our families,
11 our farmworkers and our communities safe is always top
12 priority. We hope to continue these discussions as we
13 approach 2025 and we appreciate your time and
14 consideration.

15 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Jenny.

16 Okay, up next is Michele McManus. After Michele
17 is Yesin Acosta.

18 Michele from Wilson Ag? No?

19 Okay, we'll go with Yesin Acosta from Líderes
20 Campesinas? No Yesin?

21 Veronica García?

22 Emilio Sarmina? Emilio Sarmina?

23 Olivia Perez? In the back? Okay. Olivia Perez
24 is up next. After Olivia, Marisa Gonzalez.

25 MS. PEREZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good

1 evening. My name is Olivia Perez and I'm a member of CAPS
2 805.

3 And California wants the exact location. We need
4 the exact location. I am here to demand that DPR listen to
5 our communities and that you provide the exact location in
6 the notifications.

7 Thank you so much.

8 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Marisa Gonzalez? Marisa
9 Gonzalez? After Marisa, Monica Slikker?

10 MS. GONZALEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.)
11 Welcome. And thank God that we're able to be here united
12 today. (Speaking English.) I called out to them, and I
13 call them to be here with us today. My parents named me
14 Marisa Gonzalez as I stand here in spirit occupying this
15 body.

16 I am here to advocate not only the regulation of
17 chemicals, but a no-chemical, pesticide-free, chemical-free
18 global planet for us as a human race.

19 I raised five children on a vegan, plant-based,
20 holistic diet, pesticide-free and chemical-free. I am here
21 on behalf of Mother Earth and our ancestors of this land
22 before the genocide by the European colonialists. VALA
23 advocates, once again, Vegan Academy L.A., a chemical-free,
24 pesticide-free and non-violent planet.

25 I would like to help to assist and advocate what

1 is written here for the DPR. Wholistic, a wholistic system
2 of pest management, the use of monitoring pesticides. We
3 are the pests, humans. We don't need pesticides. We are
4 the pests. So if we eliminate what we're doing to this
5 planet, we won't need to have these types of meetings. If
6 we infiltrate with permaculture, which is earth care,
7 sustainable care for the planet, care for people and fair
8 share, which is how we are to live on this planet together.

9 We are told here, why does California need an SPM
10 roadmap? We don't need a roadmap. If we get rid of the
11 pests, which are the way we live on this planet, not us,
12 but the way we live, then we won't need the SPM and the
13 road map.

14 DPR, you are employed people by the DPR. Please
15 remember that you are humans with us as we walk this
16 planet. As the Constitution was written, not for women
17 necessarily and people of color, it does affect us. We are
18 a part of the Republic. The Republic is to exercise power
19 on our behalf. Let's remember that.

20 Together we stand, united we fall, in the name of
21 the most high, in the name of God.

22 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Marisa.

23 Okay, up next, Monica Slikker. After Monica,
24 Gustavo Aguirre.

25 MS. SILKKER: My name is Monica Slikker,

1 M-O-N-I-C-A S-L-I-K-K-E-R. I am the majority owner of a
2 crop dusting company.

3 I want to tell all the farmworkers here that I
4 understand their concerns and I respect the job that they
5 do every day in the heat. And we are very concerned about
6 avoiding exposure to chemicals for people.

7 My business does not make an application when
8 crews are next to or near a field. I have a radio in my
9 office and I can hear the pilot. There's a person there
10 and he's circling and circling to try to get our spotter to
11 move them, or he goes to a field and there's a crew there
12 that we did not know and the farmer didn't tell them that
13 there would, the neighbor farmer, that there would be a
14 crew there. And so there's people there and we don't spray
15 them.

16 I do want to say that there are already DPR laws
17 that are in place that prohibit an application next to and
18 within a quarter mile of a field where there are people
19 and/or a school. And I respect DPR and the Ag Commissioner
20 for enforcing those current laws.

21 I also have a question. And I understand the
22 people that say they want to know where the fields are so
23 they can avoid it. But is there an enforcement mechanism
24 in place by DPR for people that will deliberately go into a
25 field to stop an application? We're responsible, but I

1 don't know. I'm not saying you will, but there are people
2 that we've had that are in a field. And so I want to just
3 make sure that we can all work together so that my pilot is
4 safe. If he sees people in a field, he cannot land that
5 airplane fully loaded. That is unsafe. And DPR is
6 responsible for the safety of everybody.

7 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Monica.

8 MS. SILKKER: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: All right. All right,
10 we're going to let Gustavo Aguirre come up. After Gustavo,
11 Cesar Aguirre.

12 MR. G. AGUIRRE: Thanks, Natalie is giving --
13 donating me her time and mic, so I have a little bit more.
14 Gustavo Aguirre.

15 (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Forty-five years ago
16 I came to the U.S. And from the first day, I fought to
17 protect us from pesticides with the Farm Workers Union,
18 with Cesar Chavez. And in 2008 when I was working with
19 CRP, for the first time, we got a pesticide buffer zone to
20 get approved in Tulare, which eventually became a state
21 rule. To this day, these are the facts, to this day I
22 haven't heard from any that any growers have had any issues
23 with that state law.

24 Now the notification, it's just that, a
25 notification. We're not asking you to change any rules.

1 Just to notify. We're not asking the growers anything
2 else. That's all.

3 What good is it to me to not know if they're
4 going to be applying pesticides it's next to my house? How
5 can I protect my family and my people if they're applying
6 near my home and I don't know whether that application is
7 happening next to my house or a mile away? Again, we need
8 information.

9 Another fact, my father died of cancer, and he
10 was a farmworker in California. My wife died of cancer and
11 she worked the fields in California. My mother-in-law died
12 of cancer after being a fieldworker. My brother-in-law was
13 a fieldworker in California and also died of cancer. So
14 how can we protect these communities from pesticides if
15 you, DPR, can't even have the courage to notify us?

16 One of the growers said that they are concerned,
17 and I believe that they are concerned with everyone's
18 health. I don't think it is their intention to poison us.
19 But it would be easy to get that notification. We don't
20 need to change the law. DPR has that information. You
21 just need to do something that will actually achieve
22 something for our communities. And I'm now mad.

23 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next is Gustavo.

24 And I just want to remind everyone, we're going
25 to try to go to 8:45 and get to as many people as we can,

1 but we may not get to you, so just be aware of that.

2 Go ahead, Gustavo [sic].

3 MR. C. AGUIRRE: Hi. My name is Cesar Aguirre.
4 I will be donating my time to Jose Ojeda.

5 Thank you very much.

6 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you.

7 MR. OJEDA: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good
8 evening. My name is Jose Ojeda. I am a resident of the
9 City of Arvin and I am part of the Committee for a Better
10 Arvin. My testimony is much longer but I'll go very
11 quickly.

12 I arrived in Arvin many years ago and my home is
13 in front of a field. It's directly across the street, next
14 to the school. Some time ago a plane went by and sprayed
15 the school and the kids. Then while the plane was
16 spraying, I took pictures and I called the commissioner.
17 This was on a Saturday. I didn't get a call back until
18 Monday and they told me that they had spoken to the grower
19 and the growers said that they were just spraying sugar
20 water for the bees, which was a lie. Then they sprayed
21 again in front of the house and they said that was because
22 a tractor couldn't come in, and apparently they said that
23 it wasn't poisonous. But they didn't notify us. We have
24 no idea what pesticide they sprayed.

25 And this month, this month in Arvin, they have

1 buried five people who worked in the field, who died of
2 cancer, one after another they died. I am working out
3 there in the fields and I'm becoming aware of all the
4 regulations there are.

5 We earn minimum wage and we have to have two
6 washers at home. Each season, we have to throw away our
7 clothes because the smell doesn't go away after you wash
8 it. So please, we need notification with exact location.

9 Thank you. Yes, we can.

10 SPANISH INTERPRETER DIAZ: Thank you, Jose.

11 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Byanka Santiago. And
12 after Byanka, Mary Jane Galviso.

13 MS. SANTOYO: Good afternoon. My name is Byanka
14 Santoyo. I'm a community organizer for Center on Race,
15 Poverty & The Environment. I am here because I'm
16 representing our communities that have been burdened for
17 years.

18 As we mentioned earlier, we started here in
19 Shafter for the notification. We wanted notification to
20 start off here in Shafter. But because of our Ag
21 Commissioner representing the growers, not the community,
22 we weren't able to do it. DPR had to take the lead of it
23 and yet it's falling in a lot of cracks. It's missing
24 exact location, something that we asked at the beginning
25 when the notification started. This is ridiculous that you

1 want to finish the hearing here in Shafter, yet it's not
2 giving us what we've been asking since day one, exact
3 location.

4 We have communities from all around California
5 representing what we live in a daily basis. These are
6 farm-working communities and we need we need DPR to
7 represent these communities. We can't be forgotten.

8 Our voices are much more than the profit that
9 growers have to deal with in a daily basis. Our voices are
10 our power and we are all united here to ask for the exact
11 location. It's our demand. It's our livelihood, that
12 every day we're being poisoned. We want to make sure that
13 DPR hears it loud and clear, we want exact location.

14 Thank you.

15 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Byanka.

16 Up next is Mary Jane Galviso. After Mary Jane is
17 Marcos Chavez.

18 MS. GALVISO: My name is Mary Jane Galviso from
19 Orosi, Tulare County, and I'm a member of the Filipino
20 Farmers Cooperative. Sally, yeah, and Maida (phonetic),
21 and we had one other -- two other members.

22 Anyway, I just want to make it clear that this
23 proposed notification system of the DPR is not a
24 notification system, it's actually just a warning system.
25 And after all these hearings, DPR, you should know that

1 this is not the notification system that we have been
2 demanding.

3 DPR, you have an obligation to be honest, to be
4 transparent with the public. Instead, you continue to
5 shield big agribusiness. You hide them. You shield them.
6 You keep their secrets. And yet, you expose us to
7 dangerous cancer-causing chemicals every day. It's very
8 clear that the health of the people is not what you're
9 concerned about.

10 It's also clear that DPR staff does not live in
11 rural communities. Otherwise, you wouldn't come up with a
12 silly term, spray days. In our area, big ag sprays from
13 6:00 in the evening to six o'clock in the morning, all
14 night long. Spray days. What are you talking about, spray
15 days? Doesn't exist.

16 And one reason, I believe, is that DPR is still
17 holding hands with agribusiness. That's the problem here.
18 DPR is not working for the people.

19 More public hearings? Oh, DPR, you just love
20 that. You get paid to be here. You get paid overtime,
21 probably, with the hotel and meals thrown in, but we don't
22 get paid.

23 Right now, I should be on my farm irrigating the
24 fields, but I'm here with all the other spray victims
25 because, DPR, you just love meetings. Bureaucrats, you

1 love meetings all day long. But I'm going to tell you
2 right now, this is not the notification you know that we
3 want. We want a notification system that tells us where is
4 the spray sites.

5 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Mary Jane.

6 Okay, up next is Marcos Chavez. After Marcos,
7 Jerry Saldana.

8 MR. CHAVEZ: Good evening. My name is Marcos
9 Chavez and I live in Ventura County.

10 I ask you to strengthen the draft regulation for
11 a statewide pesticide notification system to include the
12 exact location of plant pesticide applications. I know
13 there are pesticides applied near me every day. I want to
14 know the closest application so I can take extra
15 precautions on those days.

16 Thank you.

17 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Marcos.

18 Up next, Jerry Saldana. After Jerry, Noemi
19 Hernandez.

20 MR. SALDANA: Hello. I'm Jerry Saldana from
21 Oxnard, California. Thank you for starting the pesticide
22 warning system.

23 My family lives close to fields and knowing
24 exactly where the pesticides are used is very important for
25 our safety. Please make sure we get an exact location. I

1 understand that County Agricultural Commissioners already
2 have this information, but why shouldn't our community get
3 this? It will help us decide when to keep kids indoors,
4 when to go to nearby parks, and which route to take to work
5 or school. That's why we ask you to take this into
6 consideration.

7 Thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you. Thank
9 you, Jerry.

10 Next up is Noemi Hernandez. After Noemi, Alan
11 Shorb.

12 MS. N. HERNANDEZ: Good evening. What are we
13 demanding? Everyone that's here, exact location. Yes, we
14 can. I'm here from Ventura County. I've been a farmworker
15 for over 20 years, and I will be as direct as possible.

16 We want for the Department of Pesticide
17 Regulation to include exact location of the fields where
18 the pesticides are going to be applied. As a mother, I
19 worry about my children. I want to protect my children,
20 because in Ventura, there are more than 32 schools that are
21 surrounded by fields where toxic pesticides are applied.
22 That's why I'm here, to demand exact location, and I'll
23 give the rest of my time to my daughter.

24 MS. J.B. LOPEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Hi.
25 My name is J.B. Lopez and I want to know the exact

1 location.

2 Yes we can.

3 And I also want to take advantage of the mic to
4 ask that you don't apply so many pesticides. We're ag
5 workers. Even with gloves, our hands are being damaged
6 little by little. When we go home, those of us who have
7 young children, they come rushing out to hug us and I say,
8 "Wait, wait, wait, there are a lot of chemicals on my
9 clothes."

10 So if you could do something, growers, I don't
11 know how many are here today, please protect all of our
12 community. Thank you in advance. Thank you.

13 And we demand it. Yes we can. Exact location.
14 Exact location. Exact location. Exact location. Yes we
15 can.

16 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Next, Alan Shorb. Alan
17 Shorb?

18 Okay, after Alan, Renee Pinel.

19 MR. SHORB: Good evening. My name is Alan Shorb.
20 I'm from Ojai in Ventura County. I'm a retired
21 mathematician and I spent half my career as a computer
22 scientist.

23 I'm here to lend my support to having location
24 included in the -- and by location, I mean not just the
25 spot, I mean an entire exact area that is being sprayed.

1 I don't have much to say to what -- add to what
2 people have said, other than this is clearly a social
3 justice issue where this returns a little bit of power to
4 those members of the community that have been disempowered.

5 Another thing is not having exact location is a
6 bit of a secret. And in my 86 years, I've seen many, many
7 examples of where secrets have led to abuse of power. The
8 abuse of power here for the convenience of a few, many,
9 many health issues for the many. There are many other
10 examples of abuse that I'm sure people here can think of
11 that I don't need to mention.

12 Thank you very much for your time.

13 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Thank you, Alan.

14 Okay, up next is Renee Pinel. Renee?

15 After Renee will be Joshua Rahm.

16 MS. PINEL: Good evening. Thank you for the
17 opportunity to speak. My name is Renee Pennell, R-E-N-E-E
18 P-I-N-E-L, with Western Plant Health. I appreciate the
19 opportunity to speak tonight. We will be submitting
20 detailed comments in writing, so I just wanted to mention a
21 couple of things.

22 DPR has mentioned previously about the fact that
23 they have a very thorough evaluation system and that all
24 products go through this system. That is correct. And I
25 think it's a very important point that we remember, is that

1 California has probably the most thorough and
2 scientifically-progressive system to evaluate pesticides,
3 certainly in the country if not the world. And I think
4 that's an important thing.

5 How this relates to this notice or this proposal,
6 we are concerned about the 48-hour notice. All of these
7 products go through this very thorough evaluation process.
8 We are concerned adding that extra level of 48 hours is
9 going to result in confusion in the end. Again,
10 applications are constrained by atmospheric and weather
11 conditions, and we're concerned if we start seeing notices
12 and then retractions and then notices again for
13 applications, that that is going to result in confusion
14 with the public.

15 As far as the notification, we are also
16 supportive of DPR's current proposal to use spatial
17 information to provide the application information. We
18 think that this is the best and most fair way to provide
19 notification information, at the same time protecting the
20 privacy of all residents. Farmers are residents, also, and
21 they have a right to their privacy as well.

22 Finally, we just want to continue to encourage
23 DPR to develop educational information that provides
24 factual information about pesticides that the public can
25 utilize so that it's in a common language that everyone can

1 best benefit from.

2 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Renee.

3 Okay, up next was Joshua.

4 MR. RAHM: Good evening, everyone. Thanks for
5 the opportunity to be here. Joshua Rahm with the
6 California Walnut Commission.

7 As a member of the agricultural community, I work
8 hard with my fellow producers to ensure our industry best
9 management practices protect our communities, our
10 farmworkers, our farms, and the environment. I have
11 confidence in the federal, state, and local oversight of
12 pesticide use enforcement.

13 Considering these rules and regulations, I don't
14 believe that a statewide notification system is necessary
15 in anticipation of pesticide applications. Should the
16 Department continue to move forward with this project, I
17 ask that the Department consider the following items.

18 The first, the notification should be limited to
19 pesticide products that are already subject to Notices of
20 Intent, or NOI. The timeframes to submit Notices of Intent
21 to the County Ag Commissioners should remain as it is in
22 current practice. Public notifications should only include
23 what information is absolutely necessary, product applied,
24 intended date and time of application, and general
25 geographical location, such as base, meridian, township,

1 range, and section are all areas to be included.

2 Personally, identifying information such as
3 acreage treated or exact location should not be included.
4 This is critical to grower, applicator, and employee
5 safety. Safety first.

6 Because of the high probability that advance
7 notice will trigger appeals of NOIs and stall applications,
8 the Department should prepare for these administrative
9 burdens, act quickly to protect the right to farm, and for
10 extended liability for crop loss.

11 As this system is implemented, I stand in this
12 exact location tonight to encourage the Department to
13 engage early and often with the agricultural community to
14 be sure that negative consequences are managed with the
15 intent of putting people before profits and optimal
16 outcomes for all Californians.

17 Thank you very much.

18 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Joshua.

19 Okay, up next is Lupe Martinez. After Lupe is
20 Bryan Bone.

21 Lupe Martinez? One more time, Lupe Martinez?

22 Okay, Bryan.

23 Oh, okay, Lupe is coming up. After Lupe is Brian
24 Bone.

25 MR. MARTINEZ: (Via Spanish Interpreter.) Good

1 evening, everybody. My name is Lupe Martinez, and my whole
2 life, I've been a fieldworker. I was a vice chair of the
3 Farm Workers Union. I worked with Cesar, with Dolores.
4 And for too many years, we've been fighting for the well-
5 being of our colleagues, our brethren, our brother and
6 sister fieldworkers.

7 How long has DPR existed? How long have workers
8 been asking for, not the impossible, but for respect to
9 them, to us? And I see a lot of disrespect here tonight.
10 I'm not going to repeat everyone, everything that you so
11 eloquently already said.

12 But what I do want to ask is, where are the DPR
13 officers? Who is listening to what you're asking for? I
14 don't see them here tonight, and I find that disrespectful,
15 because you say you're taking notice, being recorded, when
16 will they hear it? God knows.

17 Second, you're getting more than \$10 million for
18 this, and you'll spend that 10 million, so how many more
19 years do we have to wait to get what we've been asking for
20 since the '50s and '60s, which is relief from pesticides?

21 Beyond that, what is DPR's role, to protect whom,
22 the workers, the growers, or the politicians? Whom?

23 Those are the questions we need to ask. And I'm
24 glad that you had this hearing, but I think that we need to
25 go much higher than these hearings. We need to be where

1 the decision makers are.

2 Yes, we can.

3 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, our time limit,
4 I'm going to call the next three people.

5 Bryan Bone. Is Bryan -- okay.

6 Emma, no last name. Emma?

7 After Emma, okay, we'll have Javier Arroyo.

8 EMMA: Hi. My name is Emma Flores
9 (indiscernible). I am a student at Wilson Elementary in
10 Fresno, California.

11 I am here to tell you what we as kids need, exact
12 location. We are young but aware that pesticides are
13 invisible for my parents to protect me from it.

14 I should be playing in the park right now, but
15 instead I have two obligations to come here and tell you
16 that Fresno, California wants the exact location.

17 I represent the young movement, also that
18 thousands of kids have been harmed with your pesticides.
19 That is why I, with nine of age, I demand location,
20 location, location, exact location.

21 Thank you.

22 EMILY: My name is Emily Perez Gutierrez. I am
23 seven years old. I am a second grade at Wilson Elementary
24 School at Fresno, California.

25 I want to tell you, DPR, that it's your job to

1 keep all families safe.

2 This is the last hearing. I come on behalf on
3 behalf of all those immigrants. My people, we are here to
4 request you to add the exact location.

5 ANA: My name is Ana (indiscernible). I play
6 toys and I want exact location.

7 MARCO: My name is Marco. I'm in third grade in
8 Greenburg Elementary.

9 What will happen to our generation? They don't
10 know if they didn't have exact location. People in fields
11 are not safe because they don't know, they don't know when
12 they spray pesticide. The kids are not safe inside, so
13 they can't go play outside. They can't play outside.

14 We need exact location now.

15 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: All right.

16 (Chanting from audience)

17 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Do we have Javier
18 Arroyo? Javier Arroyo?

19 MR. ARROYO: Hello everybody. My name is Javier,
20 J-A-V-I-E-R, Arroyo, A-R-R-O-Y-O. I was born and raised
21 here in Shafter, and today I'm here to represent my
22 community. I'm actually from the Colonia Mexicana, a
23 couple miles outside of Shafter.

24 My mom grew up working the fields with
25 pesticides and chemicals. Unfortunately, she just passed

1 away not too long ago. So I don't know if there's any
2 correlation with pesticides and chemicals with the cancer
3 that killed her. I don't know if regulations or more laws
4 against pesticides would actually help extend her life.
5 But, you know, it's too late for that.

6 What I'm here to fight for is for my son. He's
7 eight years old. He has special needs. He was born with
8 Down syndrome. But just like your guys' kids, he loves to
9 do what other little kids do. He loves to run, jump, play.
10 He would have been here today but he's actually outside in
11 our outdoor swimming pool.

12 In the Colonia, we're surrounded by almond
13 orchards, pesticides, chemicals, dust. And like I said, I
14 don't know if more regulations or laws, like SprayDays, can
15 it help, but I know they can help. I mean, they've got to
16 help. They can't do no more harm. And it should be just
17 common sense laws, yes, let us know when they're going to
18 spray so I can get my family out of the house, get my son
19 out of the pool.

20 Clean air, I'll take him to Bakersfield or in the
21 city if they're spraying around my house. It's just
22 something we got to know. I understand that farmers need
23 pesticides and chemicals, but let us know. Lawmakers
24 should know this. There should be common-sense laws that
25 should help us protect our kids.

1 Thank you, everybody. It's been a long night.

2 HEARING OFFICER CORREA: Okay, thank you, Javier.

3 Okay, everyone, we've run out of time for
4 this hearing. We did go over a few minutes.

5 Just want to remind everybody that the comment
6 period is still open until August 1st. You can submit
7 email comments, SmartComment online, or fax comments.

8 And thank you for attending. We will officially
9 conclude the hearing and go off record. Thank you,
10 everyone.

11 (The public hearing adjourned at 8:38 p.m.)

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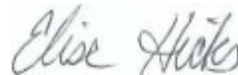
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were reported by me, a certified electronic court reporter and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 9th day of October, 2024.



ELISE HICKS, IAPRT CERT**2176

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I do hereby certify that the testimony in the foregoing hearing was taken at the time and place therein stated; that the testimony of said witnesses were transcribed by me, a certified transcriber and a disinterested person, and was under my supervision thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

And I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for either or any of the parties to said hearing nor in any way interested in the outcome of the cause named in said caption.

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript, to the best of my ability, from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



MARTHA L. NELSON, CERT**367

October 9, 2024