



August 1, 2024

Department of Pesticide Regulation
Ms. Lauren Otani
Senior Environmental Scientist
1001 I Street

RE: DPR 23-003 Statewide Notification of Agricultural Use of Restricted Materials

Dear Ms. Otani,

Merced County Farm Bureau is a non-profit, non-governmental, grassroots organization that advocates for farmers, ranchers and dairy families who live and work in Merced County. We represent approximately 1,000 members who have an active concern for the proposal as presented. MCFB has been engaged on this topic since DPR released the tentative proposal. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback.

We are concerned with the notification system as proposed. We understand providing information to the public on acres, type of material and location may seem helpful, yet it will in turn increase the level of mistrust and fear amongst community members as they do not understand the precautions growers take nor the process the materials have been through to ensure their safety. This will ultimately increase the number of calls to the local Ag Commissioners office and delay treatment to the impacted crop, potentially resulting in entire crop loss.

We are also concerned with the area to which an individual can make a request for information. Providing information to individuals who do not live within the area encourages misuse of vital details. We have already incurred substantial issues in individuals trespassing on property and have growing concern that our members will be targeted for yet another reason. We encourage DPR to take proactive steps in protecting the details of growers as this is an evolving program that has yet to show success or how that will be measured.

We again appreciate the opportunity to comment on a matter that will change how growers operate. MCFB looks forward to continuing to engage on the topic and trusts that DPR takes all comments into consideration. Please reach out if there are any additional questions we can answer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Breanne Vandenberg'.

Breanne Vandenberg
Executive Director

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