

Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project

Dear California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR),

My name is Alondra Mendoza Martinez, I am a resident of the city of Oxnard and I am a Community Advocate with Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP). MICOP's mission is to support, organize and empower the indigenous migrant communities in California's Central Coast.

Today I'm addressing concerns I have about the pesticide notification plan that I want you to address before we implement statewide notification. It's important that the notification system include the exact location of pesticide application.

It's good to see that after years, DPR has made many improvements to its pesticide notification plan. However, the most essential information that would help us take precautions against pesticide harm is still missing: that is the exact location of pesticide application. We know that the closer the pesticide is, the greater the risk of being harmed. That's why it's important that pesticide notification tells us exactly where pesticides are being applied. The closer an application is, the more precautions we can take, the more careful we can be. There's a big difference between an application that's 500 feet away and one that's 5,000 feet away.

We know we can't just "shelter in place" like we did during the worst of the pandemic, but we can take some steps that scientists say reduce the risks of pesticide damage, such as:

- o Closing windows and doors.
- o Picking up children's toys and bringing in laundry from the line.
- o Staying home if you don't feel well or have breathing problems like asthma.
- o Keeping pregnant women away from applications, especially of pesticides that are linked to reproductive and developmental harm, and childhood cancers.

I ask the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to ensure the pesticide notification system is effective and includes the exact location of planned applications.

I hope that the DPR will seriously consider these concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Alondra Mendoza Martinez

Community Advocate

Mixteco/Indigena Community Organizing Project (MICOP)