

Mary Rogers

July 24, 2024

Dept. of Pesticide Regulation

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Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Director Henderson,

Unfortunately, I vehemently disagree with your new pesticide notification system that does not contain the MOST important component, the exact location. I am deeply concerned that the system only provides partial information about the location of proposed pesticide use, describing a one-square-mile area rather than giving detailed information. If you live or work or your children attend a school surrounded by agricultural fields, if you are told everyday that within a square mile there was a pesticide application; how helpful would that information truly be, when you already know that you are surrounded by ag fields? It's simply not just or helpful that adequate information is left out preventing effective proactive self protection.

The town of Grayson in Stanislaus County participated in one of the pilot tests. Participants voiced their need for an exact location for an effective system. To provide the utmost protection, especially to marginalized communities near agricultural fields, knowing the exact location of pesticide applications is crucial. Not knowing this information places a large burden on these communities, leaving them at high risk of exposure, impacting their health and their livelihood. Considering pesticides can and do drift with the wind, knowing exactly where they are coming from is crucial. A one-square-mile radius notification does not provide sufficient information for the most impacted community members to take proactive measures to protect themselves. These measures include:

- Adjusting schedules and walking routes
- Ventilating and taking shelter, such as closing windows or moving indoors
- Assessing wind drift and other environmental factors

Farmworkers, who are the most exposed, can take extra safety precautions and perform additional safety precautions if they know which fields have been sprayed. This aids in faster emergency preparedness in case of exposure of pesticide drift, which has been demonstrated by 2 recent school drift incidents in our community in the last two years.

Lastly, I am dissatisfied with the name "Spray Days." These are restricted chemicals, many of which are carcinogenic, and the name downplays the severity and need for safety concerns. The term "days" misrepresents the year-round use of pesticides. I suggest renaming it to the "Pesticide Notification System" to better reflect the program and avoid confusion.

Additionally, I am happy to hear that DPR will be looking into integrating new languages into the system, making it more accessible for all community members. Looking forward to seeing that be represented based on demographics.

My family and my extended family all live in Stanislaus County. Both of my granddaughters have asthma. So too many of their friends also have asthma. Farmworkers have asthma. They all are at risk and the pesticide sprays add to that health risk. I am urging you to rethink this proposal to include dates, times, places of spraying.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I urge you to provide more precise information in the notification system to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Rodgers