

# Emily Ayala

Dear Director Henderson:

As a small family farmer in an area where agriculture overlaps with residential areas I am fully aware of the public's concern about chemicals, machinery and labor used in agriculture. We all work to ensure our pest management practices protect crops, employees and family. I have confidence in the federal, state and local oversight of pesticide use enforcement which should continue to be based on science. Considering these rules and regulations, I do not believe that statewide notification is necessary in anticipation of pesticide applications.

Will we also need to notify the public when we move trash bins, porta-potties and other equipment that can potentially pose a hazard to neighbors? More often than not on trash day there is a dispersion of insects and rodents that undoubtedly pose hazards to neighbors as well. Notification should continue to be based on toxicity data (science!).

Should the Department continue to move forward with this project, I ask the Department to consider the following items:

- Notification should be limited to pesticide products that are already subject to Notices of Intent.
- Timeframes to submit Notices of Intent to County Agricultural Commissioners should remain as it is in current practice.
- Public notifications should only include what information is *absolutely* necessary: product applied, intended date and time of application, and general geographical location (base, meridian, township, range, and section).
- Personal identifying information, such as acreage treated or exact location, should not be included—this is critical to grower, applicator and employee safety.
- Because advanced notice is highly likely to trigger appeals of NOIs and stall applications, the Department should prepare for these administrative burdens, act quickly to protect the right to farm, and prepare for extended liability for crop loss.

· All of these notices is an extreme burden on tax payers and our agricultural commissioners offices.

As this system is implemented, I encourage the Department to engage early and often with the agricultural community to be sure that negative consequences are managed.

Sincerely,

Emily Ayala