

May 1, 2026

Re: Comment on SprayDays Annual Status Update

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SprayDays Annual Status Update. I am a member of the DPR Environmental Justice Advisory Committee (EJAC) and a Senior scientist at Pesticide Action & Agroecology Network (PAN). PAN North America works to create a just, healthy, and equitable food system and is one of five regional centers cooperating to transform food systems across the globe.

At the DPR EJAC meeting in Salinas on April 17, 2026, there were numerous public comments from community members recommending improvements to the SprayDays notification system. The public comments were focused on the first two subheadings below. It was clear based on public comments that the SprayDays system is appreciated as an important first step by DPR towards providing information on pesticide applications. My comments address ways that DPR can improve on information access and communications with the public.

DPR should provide more precise location information in SprayDays

Nearly every public comment at the EJAC regarding SprayDays expressed the need for exact location information. The current system gives information based on one square mile sections, which is not specific enough information for community members who want to avoid children's exposure to pesticides where they live, learn, and play. The public clearly wants this information.

DPR should add more pesticides to the notification system for SprayDays.

In addition to the restricted use pesticides (RUPs) that are already included in SprayDays notifications, DPR should expand the number of pesticides that are notified. The public comment indicated that this was of great interest. As a first step for expanding the number of pesticides, DPR should, in addition to the current list of RUPs, all of the pesticides that OEHHA determined as concerning for public health on the CalEnviroscreen map.

DPR should provide information on prevailing wind directions in SprayDays

DPR should provide information on prevailing wind directions in the area of application(s), relative to the application site. This information could be displayed as arrows and would benefit users, who could visualize how they might avoid further exposure in a given section on the map.

DPR should expand its SprayDays outreach to workers and schools

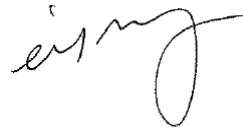
DPR should find additional ways to provide the SprayDays outreach materials to agricultural workers through work related venues. For example, DPR should send outreach materials to county agricultural commissioners who can then disseminate these to growers and workers. DPR should involve growers in disseminating SprayDays information to workers. DPR should also site ads or posters at locations where workers might frequent, such as day labor centers.

DPR should also disseminate information on SprayDays through schools, as the schools buffer zone policy makes the notification system of great interest to parents and other community members. DPR should prioritize its outreach to counties with relatively low signups, such as Imperial (220), Napa (313), Sonoma (712) and Yolo (617) counties.

Finally, DPR should revisit the content of the video advertising SprayDays that was played at the EJAC. While it is important to roll out SprayDays as a valuable information resource using video, DPR should develop SprayDays outreach materials being mindful that many community members are using the notifications to avoid further exposure, such as knowing when to leave their homes or avoid certain areas when a fumigant application is happening. The glossiness of the commercial for SprayDays may not resonate with environmental justice communities, who are primarily concerned about not being exposed to carcinogenic pesticides like 1,3-dichloropropene. DPR should consider an outreach approach in video that focuses on the information sharing aspect of SprayDays notification, for example devoting more time to the kinds of information available on the SprayDays website in the video would be more useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Marquez', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Emily Marquez, Ph.D.
Senior scientist