

## Safe Ag Safe Schools Organization (Karen Cameron)

While it is exciting to have Spray Days, the world's first notification system for pesticides, it's important that we keep things in perspective. California has the fourth largest economy in the world. California is the top US agricultural state, with 2024 production reaching a record \$61.2 billion in value, covering 24.2 million acres and 63,134 farms. (That involves using nearly 200 million pounds of pesticides each year!) Air Monitoring is clearly inadequate. The top three producing counties are Fresno, Tulare and Monterey. There is currently a minimal air monitor only measuring 1-3D in Fresno (now being expanded); none in Tulare; and Monterey and Santa Cruz counties are both supposed to rely upon data from the Pajaro area? Seriously? So what could be done to improve Spray Days after a year of implementation? 1 - Provide an exact location, not a one mile grid. Examples have been given of emergency systems such as an alert for a natural disaster, like a fire. It would be ludicrous to send out a signal with a 1 mile radius not a precise location. What good would that do? So why do they do that for pesticides and what's truly being hidden? 2 - Include more information on organophosphates and fumigants (pesticides that have been banned in dozens of countries), as well as the most toxic unrestricted pesticides. Provide alerts for those as well. Web-post the NOIs for all organophosphate pesticides in real-time, so that our communities can prepare and take safety precautions to reduce the risks to our children. 3- Hold Ag Commissioners accountable for data to avoid certain counties being over inundated.