

Chase Luther

PAN-1; I am writing in strong support of improving the SprayDays pesticide notification system by requiring disclosure of the exact location of planned pesticide applications, rather than limiting notifications to a one-square-mile area. As a practicing physician in the Central Valley of California, I care for members of the community whose health can be directly affected by environmental exposures. This includes children, pregnant individuals, older adults, outdoor workers, and patients with asthma, COPD, cardiovascular disease, or other chronic illnesses that may be worsened by airborne irritants or chemical exposure. For these populations, timely and accurate information can be a public health necessity. Advance notification is an important and commendable step toward transparency. However, broad one-square-mile notifications significantly reduce the practical value of the system. A square mile can include homes, schools, parks, childcare centers, workplaces, and agricultural laborers spread across a wide area. Families cannot make informed decisions about whether to keep windows closed, adjust outdoor activity, temporarily relocate sensitive individuals, or take other reasonable precautions unless they know where spraying will actually occur. If county officials already possess the exact field location in advance, then withholding that information undermines the purpose of the notification system and limits the public's ability to protect themselves. I respectfully urge the Department to strengthen SprayDays by including the exact planned application location in pesticide notifications. This would transform the system from a partial notice into a truly useful public health tool. Thank you for your consideration and for your continued work to protect the health of Californians.