

CAPS-559 Organization (Cristina Gutiérrez)

On behalf of the Fresno County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety (CAPS - 559), I would like to commend you on the progress made over the past year with the implementation of Spray Days, your pesticide notification system aimed at promoting transparency. While we appreciate the strides taken toward greater openness, our members remain concerned about a critical gap: the absence of exact location details for upcoming pesticide applications. This specific information is essential for us to take effective precautions and better protect our families' health and safety. We understand that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has chosen not to include precise location data due to a lack of standardization in Notice of Intent (NOI) forms. We hope that efforts can be made to address this issue, as enhanced location transparency would significantly improve community safety and trust. We strongly call on the Department of Pesticide Regulation to add exact application location data to Spray Days. Accurate and standardized location reporting is essential for transparency and public trust. If you are not willing to standardize location reporting—a change that appears to be a straightforward adjustment—then at minimum, please include precise location information in the current “Location” box on the NOI forms for all future Spray Days notices. This step is critical toward achieving better transparency. In addition to for the need for exact location, we express serious concern that most brain-harming organophosphate pesticides are not included simply because they are not designated as restricted materials. These pesticides pose a significant threat to our children’s neurological development, even before birth. This is an issue that demands immediate attention. We strongly urge the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to take decisive action and add all organophosphates to the Spray Days system without delay. Protecting our children’s health must be a top priority, and this measure is essential to achieving that goal. Sincerely Cristina Gutiérrez CAPS Organizer & San Joaquin Valley Environmental Justice Coordinator, Californians for Pesticide Reform