

Kern Gas and Oil organizer for Clean Water Action (Jesus Alonso)

Hello My name is Jesus Alonso and I'm the Kern Gas and Oil organizer for Clean Water Action. I grew up in the region and now as I work with local communities, we've come to realize the tremendous impact of pesticide use on our local communities, including high levels of respiratory disease and cancers. Our communities, which are largely low-income communities of color suffer both from a lack of information about pesticides used in our area, including from agriculture, and the toxic effects of the chemicals themselves. It is imperative that DPR take a stronger role in reducing the use of the most toxic chemicals to protect our communities and support more sustainable agricultural practices.

Doing so means not wasting time or resources on this committee process or internal debates about pesticides. Just go to page 99 of CalEnviroScreen 5.0 for OEHHA's list of pesticides of special concern for the best choices. Given OEHHA's international standing as a premier scientific body, we are confident that reducing or eliminating those the agency identifies as most hazardous and widely used will protect the public. Take action now and let's not see the same chemicals listed on the next Cal Enviro Screen.

Furthermore, stop addressing pesticides one by one. Instead, use a class approach to eliminating and mitigating the impacts of pesticides such as organophosphates, neonics, or those containing PFAS.

Finally, stop the endless review of pesticides without acting. This practice casts doubt on the agency's commitment to the people of California. In some cases, you've spent 20 years or more reviewing pesticides without reducing their use or public exposures. Our communities are suffering from that lack of action in very serious and even life-threatening ways. That's why I'm here to demand you act with more expediency on our behalf. Fulfill your real mandate.