



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

State Places Politics Over Truth

Today, DPR released their new “Pesticides around Schools” regulatory proposal, which will further restrict the availability of crop protection tools to farmers. WPHA rejects the allegation that current regulations are not protective of communities or children in schools. DPR itself has in multiple public hearings over the past year publicly acknowledged that these regulations are not based on science or validated data demonstrating need, but are policy driven recommendations. If you look at the facts, you will find:

- Multiple agencies within Cal-EPA have, for over seven years, been conducting ongoing air monitoring for potential exposures to pesticides of disadvantaged communities and around schools. To date, the data show pesticides are not in the air and therefore not resulting in exposure. This monitoring is taking place at multiple locations around the state and by agencies including DPR and ARB.
- Before any pesticide can be registered, it must undergo over 300 studies to determine safety within the parameters of where it will be used. Pesticides used around sensitive populations are assessed for their safety in these settings before they can be registered. Last year, the non-partisan and highly respected National Academy of Sciences (NAS) confirmed that the EPA registration process is thorough and scientifically sound, and NAS commented that DPR’s current program provides precautionary protections beyond what has been scientifically demonstrated necessary to assure safety.
- To our knowledge in the last sixteen years, there have been no incidences of children in schools being exposed in the legal application of a pesticide around schools. We agree that the goal of the regulatory system and the protections it provides should always strive for zero incidents, and it’s clear that California has achieved success about as close as can be achieved and has accomplished that under the current system.

It is clear that this proposal is nothing more than Cal-EPA pandering to anti-pesticide and anti-farmer interests at the expense and on the backs of California's farmers. California's farmers live on their farms and in these communities and are committed to the safe use of crop protection products. It is unfortunate that agencies that have provided Californians with real protections because of the science those regulations have been based upon, are now allowing themselves to be manipulated to advance activist agendas.