

## **Background and Notice**

Beginning on May 28 in Sacramento, Calif., the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) will host a series of statewide public workshops to hear ideas on how to address concerns regarding the use of pesticides around schools. While the workshops are being promoted as listening sessions, DPR's Director Brian Leahy has stated his intent to develop a statewide policy to mitigate the challenges created by schools being placed close to working farms, and that the policy will include statewide requirements that "clearly reflect the responsibilities of schools and farmers as agricultural pesticides are applied close to schools."

DPR is asking for input on their proposal from individual farmers. While WPHA supports human health protections including those for schools, there are a myriad of concerns regarding the proposal. Specifically, there does not appear to be any scientific evidence demonstrating a need for additional regulations or justification that current regulations are insufficient. In contrast, data from DPR's own pesticide use and pesticide illness databases clearly indicate no such problem exists. Equally concerning is DPR's commitment to develop regulations prior to holding such listening sessions to hear input from all sides, and without assessing the impact to California agriculture and longer term the potential for these regulations to move beyond applications around schools to all pesticide applications. Five listening sessions are scheduled throughout the state through June 9. The locations of the listening sessions are:

- **May 28** - California Environmental Protection Agency Building  
Sierra Room, 1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
3 pm: workshop focused on grower and pesticide applicator issues
- **June 2** - Cesar Chavez Library  
615 Williams Road, Salinas, CA 93905  
3 pm: workshop focused on grower and pesticide applicator issues
- **June 3** - Ventura County Government Center, Board of Supervisors  
Room 800, South Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009  
3 pm: workshop focused on grower and pesticide applicator issues
- **June 4** - Kern County Library - Lamont Branch  
8304 Segrue Road, Lamont, CA 93241  
3 pm: workshop focused on grower and pesticide applicator issues
- **June 9** - City of Coachella Corporate Yard  
53-462 Enterprise Way, Coachella, CA 92236  
3 pm: workshop focused on grower and pesticide applicator issues