



“From the Director”

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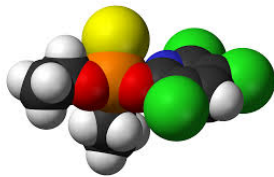
November 20, 2017

Hello,

As we approach the season of giving thanks, I thought it would be useful to let you know what DPR has been recently working on. Much of this work has occurred quietly behind the scenes, carried out by dedicated and hardworking employees who deserve our thanks. We want to ensure that, as California continues to provide an abundance of produce, we have some of the most stringent safeguards in place to protect people and the environment. We believe that protecting people, air and water are vital to the continuing success of the agricultural industry, which employs thousands of people in this state.

I am grateful to our DPR scientists and staff alongside the hardworking farmers, farmworkers and applicators, many of whom we will never meet, but who are largely responsible for us having food on our table this season.

Here's a snapshot of some of our recent activities;



Chlorpyrifos: As you may have seen in the media recently, in an effort to protect people living near and working on nearby farms, adjacent to application sites, DPR has recommended increased restrictions and controls on the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos. I am pleased that the use of this organophosphate has decreased significantly over the past decade, but as use continues, we want to ensure adequate protections whenever growers utilize this tool. Therefore, DPR has updated our recommended permit conditions to increase the minimum distance separating sensitive sites from chlorpyrifos applications (i.e., setback distances) and refining the definition of sensitive site. The recommendations come after DPR released its updated risk assessment on chlorpyrifos for public comment. Our next step is to present the updated assessment and comments to an independent panel of nine scientists, known as the Scientific Review Panel (SRP), for more review. This process, may ultimately lead to new restrictions on use in the future. You can find more @ http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/active_ingredient/chlorpyrifos.htm



Protecting Workers: DPR wants to better protect workers who directly handle pesticides, so we have proposed regulatory changes to further reduce the risk of pesticide exposure and injuries among pesticide handlers and workers. This is despite the fact that the new Federal Worker

Protection Standard requirements have been delayed and will not go into effect next year. The changes include expanding the content of handler and fieldworker training, and clarifying field posting, fieldworker decontamination water, and enclosed space ventilation criteria. These Worker Protection Standard Updates will ensure a workforce that is better trained and protected. The public comment period closed in September and DPR anticipates these regulations will be in place by early 2018.



Protecting schoolkids: As you may know, DPR has adopted a new regulation which bans farmers from making certain pesticides applications near schools and daycare centers starting next year. The new regulation prohibits many types of pesticide applications within a quarter mile of public K-12 schools and licensed daycare centers from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the school week. It applies to all applications by aircraft, sprinklers, air-blast sprayers, and all

fumigant applications. Farmers will also be required to provide annual notification to public K-12 schools and licensed day-care facilities, as well as county agricultural commissioners, of the pesticides expected to be used within a quarter mile of these schools and facilities in the upcoming year.

This regulation is the result of almost three years of work, during which time we met with many teachers, parents, farmers and concerned citizens. California agriculture is an important industry, and the vast majority of farmers do a great job adhering to our safety rules. However California's expanding population has resulted in a number of schools and day-care facilities being located near working farms--increasing the potential for unintended exposures to pesticides. This regulation should help to further protect the students on those campuses.



User friendly website: I am so pleased with DPR scientists and staff (especially the DPR's Worker Health and Safety, Pesticide Registration, Human Health Assessment, Environmental Monitoring, Information Technology, and Executive Branches) who have helped to make our website easier to navigate. They consolidated hundreds

of scientific webpages and documents to make specific information on pesticide active ingredients (AI) available from a single location. The web page includes AIs for which risk assessments and/or mitigation measures are complete or are under development. Here's a link http://cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/active_ingredient/index.htm



Environmental Justice: At DPR, our commitment to environmental justice for all remains as strong as ever. This year, DPR collaborated with Kern and Santa Barbara CACs to conduct environmental justice workshops, focused on pesticide

enforcement. The purpose of the workshops is to strengthen partnerships with the community by providing attendees a working knowledge of pesticide use enforcement, reporting and worker safety. The workshops also provide attendees with a better understanding of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) Enforcement Program and the services it provides to county agricultural commissioners (CAC). We received a lot of positive feedback from the pesticide inspection demonstrations and presentations by experts in the field. I hope many of you attend our next workshop in Santa Maria next month.



Air Monitoring Network: This year, DPR expanded the Air Monitoring Network from three sites that monitored for 31 pesticides and breakdown products to eight sites. Of the eight sites, DPR is conducting the monitoring on four of them, while the Air Resources Board (ARB) should begin monitoring the other four in early 2018. ARB is also monitoring ambient air concentrations of 1,3-dichloropropene in two communities located in high use areas.

In addition to these sites, DPR scientists also conduct seasonal and other short-term air monitoring for pesticides as part of our commitment to continuously evaluate the use of registered pesticides in California.



Surface water monitoring: The Surface Water Protection Program (SWPP) continued its efforts in monitoring urban and agricultural watersheds in California. Our staff does an incredible job analyzing and estimating concentrations of pesticides moving to surface water from agricultural use and storm water runoff from urban areas.



License renewal: Kudos to our Licensing and Certification Branch whose outreach efforts have helped to increase the early submission of renewal packets from license and certificate holders! The County Agricultural Commissioners' offices and other stakeholders groups have been invaluable in encouraging people to apply for their licenses early. Remember processing can take up to 60 days! Those who submit their completed renewal packet to DPR by November 1 are ensured to receive their renewed license or certificate by January 1, 2018.



Finally, our Outreach and Communications team has been busy ensuring that we all understand the importance of using pesticides wisely. I especially want to draw attention to a Brown Bag Lunch event that we held recently, which highlighted how some school districts have

reduced their use of pesticides on campus. Manteca Unified School District staff gave a great presentation about their Gopher Trapping Program... Here's the link to the flyer-

http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/brownbag/2017/agenda_100417.pdf

Have a great Thanksgiving!