

## PESTICIDES MUST BE INCLUDED IN SCOPING PLAN AND CLIMATE LANDS STRATEGY



Californians For  
Pesticide Reform



Breast Cancer  
Prevention Partners  
Exposing The Cause Is The Cure



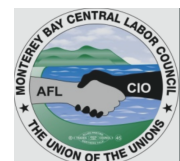
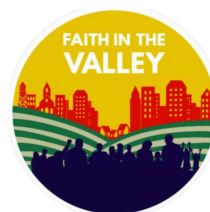
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OCCIDENTAL ARTS  
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January 5, 2021

Governor Gavin Newsom  
1303 10<sup>th</sup> Street Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via email: [gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov](mailto:gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov), [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov),

Re: PESTICIDES MUST BE INCLUDED IN SCOPING PLAN AND CLIMATE LANDS STRATEGY

Dear Governor Newsom,

The fifty-nine (59) organizations below submit this letter to call for the explicit inclusion of agricultural pesticides, and actions to support reductions of synthetic pesticide use, in both the 2022 Scoping Plan and the Climate Lands Strategy under Executive Order N-82-20. We also call for the Department of Pesticide Regulation to take a lead role in these efforts.

The 2022 Scoping Plan is intended not only to address actions to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration but also to prioritize actions that result in multiple benefits to public health and the environment. Pesticides pose a severe threat to human and environmental health:

- They pollute air and water and impact community health, putting the health of Latinx and farmworker communities at disproportionate risk.
- They inhibit the ability of soil to sequester carbon, build soil organic matter, and conserve water.
- They contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions, with studies showing just three fumigant pesticides leading to as much as a 100-fold increase in nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas considered 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. One study showed a 7-fold increase in nitrous oxide emissions following a single fumigation.
- They decrease ecological biodiversity and leave farmers less resilient in the face of climate change.

For these reasons it is imperative that pesticides - 200 million+ pounds of which are applied in California every year - are incorporated into the Scoping Plan in a serious and significant way, along with real solutions that decrease our overreliance on these hazardous chemicals.

The California Natural Resources Agency and CDFA are currently tasked with developing the Climate Lands Strategy, whose purpose in part is to protect and restore biodiversity. Pesticides have been identified the world over as one of the greatest contributors to biodiversity loss. To address this issue head on, we believe the Department of Pesticide Regulation needs to play a leadership role as an equal partner with CNRA and CDFA in development of the Climate Lands Strategy. Pesticides must be recognized for their disproportionate and deleterious effect on biodiversity, and solutions must be offered that focus on reducing their use.

For too long pesticides have been left out of conversations and state plans where they are wholly relevant, including those related to healthy soils, climate, water quality, air quality, and resiliency under climate change. Communities of color, who bear the brunt of environmental injustice with regard to pesticide exposure, have had enough.

We appreciate the fresh leadership you have shown on this issue, with your commitment to the phasing out of chlorpyrifos, \$5.7 million in funding to support research and farmers' transition away from chlorpyrifos, and the establishment of multi-stakeholder workgroups to identify and promote alternatives to pesticides.

We now call on you to put an end to the siloization and exclusion of pesticides from relevant state efforts, to bring the Department of Pesticide Regulation to the table on an equal footing with other departments and agencies working on issues where pesticides play a key role, and to

ensure that solutions that focus on reducing pesticide use and supporting farmers' transition away from these harmful chemicals be fully incorporated into these broader processes.

Sincerely,



Sarah Aird and Jane Sellen

*Co-Directors*

**Californians for Pesticide Reform**

Nicole Kemeny

*President*

**350 Silicon Valley**

Leah Cohen

*General Coordinator*

**Agricultural Justice Project**

Barbara Sattler

*BOD member*

**Alliance of Nurses for Healthy  
Environments**

Nancy Buermeyer

*Senior Policy Strategist*

**Breast Cancer Prevention Partners**

Jeanne Merrill

*Policy Director*

**California Climate & Agriculture Network  
(CalCAN)**

Nan Wishner

*Board Member*

**California Environmental Health Initiative**

Thomas Helme

*Coordinator*

**California Environmental Justice Coalition**

Laura Jimenez

*Executive Director*

**California Latinas for Reproductive Justice**

Nayamin Martinez

*Director*

**Central California Environmental Justice  
Network**

Larry Hanson

*Board President*

**California River Watch**

Jonathan Evans

*Environmental Health Legal Director*

**Center for Biological Diversity**

Dr. Ann Lopez

*Executive Director*

**Center for Farmworker Families**

Rebecca Spector

*West Coast Director*

**Center for Food Safety**

Caroline Farrell  
*Executive Director*

**Center on Race, Poverty & the  
Environment**

Dr. Catherine Garoupa White  
*Executive Director*

**Central Valley Air Quality Coalition**

Dr. Sarait Martinez  
*Executive Director*

**Centro Binacional para el Desarrollo  
Indígena Oaxaqueño (CBDIO)**

Renee Donato Nelson  
*President*

**Clean Air and Water Matter**

Andria Ventura  
*Legislative and Policy Director*

**Clean Water Action**

Veronica Jacoby  
*Founder*

**Climate Protection and Recovery Fund**

Alan Levine  
*Director*

**Coast Action Group**

Luis Olmedo  
*Executive Director*

**Comite Civico Del Valle, Inc.**

Kassandra Hishida  
*Coordinator*

**Community Alliance for Agroecology**

Kimberly Burr  
*Manager*

**Community Clean Water Institute**

Dan Silver  
*Executive Director*

**Endangered Habitats League**

Thomas Wheeler  
*Executive Director*

**Environmental Protection Information  
Center**

Bill Allayaud  
*California Director of Environmental Affairs*  
**Environmental Working Group**

Pastor Trena Turner  
*Executive Director*  
**Faith in the Valley**

Lendri Purcell  
*President*

**FACTS - Families Advocating for Chemical  
and Toxics Safety**

Rebecca Burgess  
*Executive Director*  
**Fibershed**

Lisa Archer  
*Director, Food and Agriculture Program*  
**Friends of the Earth**

Kaya Herron  
*Director of Community Engagement and  
Advocacy*  
**Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce**

Bradley Angel  
*Executive Director*

**Greenaction for Health and Environmental  
Justice**

Sheina Crystal  
*UC Campaign Coordinator*  
**Herbicide Free Campus**

Kimberly Baker  
*Executive Director*

**Klamath Forest Alliance**

Julia Jordan  
*Policy Coordinator*

**Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability**

Samuel Molina  
*California State Director*  
**Mi Familia Vota**

Cesar Lara  
*Executive Director*  
**Monterey Bay Central Labor Council**

Miriam Rotkin-Ellman  
*Senior Scientist*  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Frank Egger  
*President*  
**North Coast Rivers Alliance**

Dave Henson  
*Executive Director*  
**Occidental Arts and Ecology Center**

Margaret Reeves  
*Senior Scientist*  
**Pesticide Action Network**

Julie M Royes  
*Founder*  
**Pesticide Free RP**

Ginger Souders-Mason  
*President, Board of Directors*  
**Pesticide Free Zone**

Martha Dina Arguello  
*Executive Director*  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility, Los Angeles**

Robert M. Gould, MD  
*President*  
**Physicians for Social Responsibility, San Francisco Bay**

Padi Selwyn  
*Co-founder*  
**Preserve Rural Sonoma County**

Eduardo Guevara  
*Executive Director*  
**Promotores Comunitarios del Desierto, Eastern Coachella Valley**

Hektor Calderon  
*Community Organizer*  
**Safe Ag Safe Schools**

Ted Schettler MD, MPH  
*Science Director*  
**Science and Environmental Health Network**

Keith Schildt  
*Chair, Legislative Policy Committee*  
**Slow Food California**

Nichole Warwick  
*Co-Director*  
**Sonoma Safe Agriculture Safe Schools**

Janet Johnson  
*Co-coordinator*  
**Sunflower Alliance**

David Gassman  
*Co-convenor*  
**System Change not Climate Change – Bay Area**

Efrain Aguilera  
*Union Representative/Organizer*  
**UFCW Local 5**

Bianca Lopez  
*Project Director*  
**Valley Improvement Projects**

Dr. Elizabeth Dougherty  
*Executive Director*  
**Wholly H2O**

Nancy Price  
*Co-Chair, Earth Democracy Committee*  
**Women's International League for Peace & Freedom US**

Janus Holt Matthes  
*Board Chair*  
**Wine & Water Watch**

Cc:

Secretary Jared Blumenfeld, [jared.blumenfeld@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:jared.blumenfeld@calepa.ca.gov)  
Secretary Karen Ross, [Kb.r@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:Kb.r@cdfa.ca.gov), [secretary.ross@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:secretary.ross@cdfa.ca.gov)  
Secretary Wade Crowfoot, [wade.crowfoot@resources.ca.gov](mailto:wade.crowfoot@resources.ca.gov)  
Director Val Dolcini, [val.dolcini@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:val.dolcini@cdpr.ca.gov)  
Julie Henderson, Deputy Secretary for Health and Public Policy, [Julie.henderson@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:Julie.henderson@calepa.ca.gov)  
Aimee Norman, Branch Chief, [aimee.norman@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:aimee.norman@cdpr.ca.gov)  
Christine Hironaka, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, [Christine.hironaka@gov.ca.gov](mailto:Christine.hironaka@gov.ca.gov)  
Jenny Lester Moffitt, Under Secretary, [jenny.lestermoffitt@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:jenny.lestermoffitt@cdfa.ca.gov)  
Richard Corey, Executive Director, [Richard.corey@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.corey@arb.ca.gov)  
Shelby Livingston, Branch Chief, [Shelby.livingston@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Shelby.livingston@arb.ca.gov)  
Sandra Berg, CARB Vice Chair, [sberg@pacificresourcerecovery.com](mailto:sberg@pacificresourcerecovery.com)  
Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Secretary, [angela.pontes@gov.ca.gov](mailto:angela.pontes@gov.ca.gov)  
Kate Gordon, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, [climate-kate.gordon@opr.ca.gov](mailto:climate-kate.gordon@opr.ca.gov)  
Emily Tibbott, Senior Program Advisor, [Emily.tibbott@sgc.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.tibbott@sgc.ca.gov)  
Amanda Hansen, Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, [Amanda.hansen@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Amanda.hansen@resources.ca.gov)  
Lauren Sanchez, Deputy Secretary for Climate Policy, [lauren.sanchez@calepa.ca.gov](mailto:lauren.sanchez@calepa.ca.gov)  
Edie Chang, Deputy Executive Director, [edie.chang@arb.ca.gov](mailto:edie.chang@arb.ca.gov)  
Liane Randolph, CARB Chair, [liane.randolph@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:liane.randolph@cpuc.ca.gov)