

SHAFTER AB 617 STEERING COMMITTEE (EL COMITÉ DIRECTIVO DE SHAFTER PARA EL AB 617)



March 2, 2021

Secretary Jared Blumenfeld
CalEPA

Via email: jared.blumenfeld@calepa.ca.gov

Dear Secretary Blumenfeld,

We, the members of the Shafter Steering Committee and allies, request an urgent meeting with you at your earliest convenience to discuss the continued failure to implement the notification pilot pursuant to Shafter's AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Program (CERP) plan.

When we last met with you to discuss this matter on October 1, 2020, you took the forceful step of requiring DPR Director Val Dolcini to order the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner Glenn Fankhauser to make NOIs public himself or share them with DPR so that DPR could provide public notification. Director Dolcini made this demand in a letter dated December 17, 2020, and requested written confirmation by January 8 that Mr. Fankhauser would "comply with this directive."

Instead, with the public support of CACASA and a coalition of industry groups, Mr. Fankhauser doubled down on his defiance and stated his intention not only to defy the order to implement the pilot program himself, but also to withhold the NOI information from DPR.

Mr. Dolcini has now come back to the Shafter Steering Committee to ask us to reconsider Mr. Fankhauser's original and wholly inadequate offer of door hangers for residences within 200' of 1,3-dichloropropene applications.

At the California Air Resources Board hearing on February 25, board member Diane Takvorian called on CARB to issue a public statement in support of DPR's effort to implement the pilot notification program, noting that failure to do so would undermine AB 617 and the enforceability of future CERPs. Board member Hector de la Torre concurred, adding that AB 617 communities were intended to serve as pilots for potential statewide emissions reduction efforts.

It has now been more than a full year since CARB approved a pilot notification system for Shafter. Shafter is still without a notification system nor has there been any progress towards one. We urge you now to step in once again and reassert your position that the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner must comply with the lawful order by DPR to implement this pilot, for which \$250,000 in AB 617 funding has already been allocated.

We look forward to meeting with you to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Byanka Santoyo, Shafter Steering Committee
Gustavo Aguirre Jr, Shafter Steering Committee
Jane Sellen, Californians for Pesticide Reform
Sarah Aird, Californians for Pesticide Reform
Nayamin Martinez, Central California Environmental Justice Network
Paulina Torres, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment
Catherine Garoupa White, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition
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CC:

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