



Ivanhoe Community Council



May 25, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Skinner  
Chair, Senate Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 5094  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Philip C. Ting  
Chair, Assembly Budget Committee  
State Capitol, Room 6026  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski  
Chair, Senate Budget Subcommittee #2  
State Capitol, Room 4085  
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Richard Bloom  
Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee #3  
State Capitol, Room 2003  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: Support for Sustainable Agriculture Funding & Request for Pesticide Protections**

Dear Budget Chairs Skinner and Ting and Subcommittee Chairs Wieckowski and Bloom,

On behalf of the undersigned environmental, health, community, farming, and other public interest organizations, we write to:

- (1) express strong support for robust investments in California's transition to safer, sustainable agriculture, and
- (2) request language in the 2021-22 budget to ensure that the state maximizes the beneficial impacts of these investments for **farm workers and communities, biodiversity and ecosystems, and farmers transitioning to safer pest management.**

For too long, the environmental and health costs of toxic pesticide use have been borne by society at large, and not by the industries that use them. To ensure that the state intentionally addresses the most urgent issues associated with continued pesticide sales in California, **the FY 2021-22 budget should fund:**

- **\$20 million for a Community Support Fund** at the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to support residents of agricultural communities negatively impacted by pesticide use. The Fund should be used to establish community green spaces and protective buffer zones, and to provide PPE, indoor air filters, and other immediate protections identified through a process by which residents in the areas of the state at greatest risk of pesticide exposure have opportunities for input and meaningful public participation to prioritize protections based on their local pesticide and air quality conditions and what will work best for them. This additional funding could complement the Administration's proposals<sup>1</sup> to invest \$125 million in statewide park development and community revitalization and \$200 million in urban greening.
- **\$6 million to restore and expand the pesticide air monitoring network and link monitoring results to enforcement actions and increased oversight of pesticides**

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<sup>1</sup> May Revise, Outdoor Access for All (statewide park development and community revitalization program), Climate Resilience Package (\$200 million for urban greening over 2 years).

detected in the air, to ensure public health protections for the most vulnerable. The Administration and Senate's proposals<sup>2</sup> include funding for this network, but neither includes language directing DPR to link detection events with protective actions.

- **\$20 million to enhance implementation of integrated pest management (IPM) practices<sup>3</sup>** should specifically support programs focused on (1) improving on-farm ecosystems to reduce pest pressure and (2) cultivating more resilient farms through sustainable, organic, and ecological farming practices that build healthy soil, including:
  - **\$10 million for the Biologically Integrated Farming Systems (BIFS) program;**
  - **\$8 million for cooperative agreements** with California universities **should specifically support: the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program, the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, and the Organic Agriculture Institute.** These programs should create advisor and specialist positions that focus on sustainable IPM, ecological, and organic systems with an emphasis on conducting multi-language and culturally appropriate outreach and research to support the needs of small-scale and socially disadvantaged farmers. Priorities for research funded by this item shall be determined in consultation with the Environmental Farming Act Science Advisory Panel and should include organic pest management, biocontrol, and insect ecology.
- **\$12 million for critical infrastructure for biodiversity reliance – a DNA Barcode Reference Library.<sup>4</sup>**
- **\$30 million for a Pollinator Habitat Program** to expand pollinator habitat and forage on private land.<sup>5</sup> We also request complementary funding for (1) a Monarch Rescue project to pause the imminent extinction of western migratory monarchs and (2) a Statewide Local Native Seed Bank to help farmers and conservationists create pollinator habitat.

These proposed inclusions augment the Administration's bold pesticide proposals, which we also strongly support:

- **Shift to tiered pesticide mill fees<sup>6</sup>** that more closely reflect the greater regulatory burdens posed by the most dangerous pesticides. The current flat fee structure is outdated, and it should be amended to ensure that fees on pesticide sales are commensurate with the costs and threats different classes of pesticides may pose to the state, its people, and its resources.

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<sup>2</sup> \$4 million for air monitoring is included in Senate's Agriculture Budget Plan and the January Budget, Transition to Safer, Sustainable Pest Management, 3930-024-BCP-2021-GB; 8570-040-BCP-2021-GB.

<sup>3</sup> January Budget, Transition to Safer, Sustainable Pest Management, 3930-024-BCP-2021-GB; 8570-040-BCP-2021-GB; Senate Agriculture Budget Plan, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review, Subcommittee 2, May 4, 2021, Issue 23, [https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/05.04.2021\\_agenda.pdf](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/05.04.2021_agenda.pdf).

<sup>4</sup> Senate Agriculture Budget Plan, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review, Subcommittee 2, May 4, 2021, Issue 23, [https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/05.04.2021\\_agenda.pdf](https://sbud.senate.ca.gov/sites/sbud.senate.ca.gov/files/05.04.2021_agenda.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> May Revise, Climate Smart Agriculture for Sustainability and Resiliency, 8570-083-BCP-2021-MR; 3900-077-BCP-2021-MR; 3900-081-BCP2021-MR.

<sup>6</sup> January Budget, Transition to Safer, Sustainable Pest Management, 3930-024-BCP-2021-GB; 8570-040-BCP-2021-GB.

- Invest **\$10 million in a pesticide notification network**,<sup>7</sup> to alert the public to upcoming pesticide applications.

Overreliance on toxic pesticides is hurting people and our natural resources, and we are committed to advancing better solutions. With our proposed additions, the Administration and Legislature's proposed investments address urgent crises and are an important step toward a holistic approach to pest management that protects our health, resources, and communities.

Sincerely,

Allison Johnson, Staff Attorney  
Natural Resources Defense Council

Brian Shobe, Associate Policy Director  
CalCAN

Catherine Dodd PhD, RN, Policy Advisor  
California Alliance of Nurses for Healthy  
Environments

Jane Sooby, Senior Outreach & Policy Specialist  
CCOF

Daniel Gluesenkamp, Executive Director  
California Institute for Biodiversity

Melissa Romero, Legislative Affairs Manager  
California League of Conservation Voters

Anne Katten, Pesticide and Work Safety Specialist  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

Sarah Aird and Jane Sellen, Co-Directors  
Californians for Pesticide Reform

Jonathan Evans, Environmental Health Legal  
Director & Senior Attorney  
Center for Biological Diversity

Rebecca Spector, West Coast Director  
Center for Food Safety

Nayamin Martinez, Director  
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Cathryn Couch, Chief Executive Officer  
Ceres Community Project

Jamie Fanous, Policy Advocate  
Community Alliance with Family Farmers

Jan Dietrick, MPH, Director  
Dietrick Institute for Applied Insect Ecology

Andy Fisher, Executive Director  
Ecological Farming Association

Laura Deehan, State Director  
Environment California

Bill Allayaud, California Director of Government  
Affairs  
Environmental Working Group

Lendri Purcell, Co-Founder & President  
Families Advocating for Chemical & Toxics  
Safety (FACTS)

Heather Podoll, Partnership & Advocacy  
Coordinator  
Fibershed

Mayra Becerra, Chair  
Ivanhoe Community Council

Julia Jordan, Policy Coordinator  
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability

Patty Healy, Founder  
Malibu Monarch Project

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<sup>7</sup> May Revise, Pesticide Notification Network, 3930-031-BCP-2021-MR.

Asha Sharma, California Organizing Director  
Pesticide Action Network

Hektor Calderon, Monterey & Santa Cruz  
Organizer  
Safe Ag Safe Schools

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

Bianca G. Lopez, Co-Founder/Project Director  
Valley Improvement Projects

Jo Ann Baumgartner, Executive Director  
Wild Farm Alliance

Kian Schulman RN, MSN, Director  
Poison Free Malibu

Robert M. Gould, MD, President  
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Josh Kirmsse and Julia Barrero, Co-Presidents  
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Andrea Vidaurre, Policy Analyst  
People's Collective for Environmental Justice