



December 13, 2021.

Re: OEHHA's proposed safe harbor level for 1,3-dichloropropene

Esther Barajas-Ochoa
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
1001 I Street, 12th Floor
P. O. Box 4010
Sacramento, California 95812-4010
Via online portal: <https://www.oehha.ca.gov/comments>

Dear Esther Barajas-Ochoa:

The undersigned 23 organizations thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment's recent proposal for a safe harbor level of 3.7 micrograms per day for 1,3-dichloropropene. We support the proposal and believe that the proposed level is consistent with the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act and its associated regulations.

In particular, we support the use of what is called the "multisite" approach to estimating cancer potency. This approach is health-protective, consistent with the relevant regulations, and has been used by OEHHA at least a dozen times in the last two decades to set safe harbor levels.

The proposed safe harbor level is crucial for the health of Californians for the following reasons:

1. Exposure to 1,3-dichloropropene in California is widespread.

Based on Department of Pesticide Regulation air monitoring, in 2020 there were average yearly exposures to 1,3-dichloropropene above the proposed safe harbor level in five California towns: Delhi, Parlier, Santa Maria, Shafter, and Watsonville. Those five cities have a combined population of over 200,000 residents.

2. Extremely high exposures to 1,3-dichloropropene have occurred multiple times since 2018.

Again based on Department of Pesticide Regulation monitoring, what we call "spikes" (measured air concentrations of 1,3-dichloropropene above 4 parts per billion) have occurred on fourteen days since 2018 in Parlier and Shafter. This includes a concentration of 111 ppb in Parlier and concentrations of 50 and 37 ppb in Shafter.

3. Exposure to 1,3-dichloropropene is a fundamental environmental justice issue in California.

More than 10 million pounds of 1,3-dichloropropene is used every year in California, according to the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Of this amount, almost 70% is used in

zip code areas with more Latinx/Hispanic residents than the California average. Almost 90% is used in zip code areas with a median income below the statewide median.

4. After application 1,3-dichloropropene moves for long distances, carried by prevailing winds.

The Department of Pesticide Regulation recently investigated the sources of the high 1,3-dichloropropene concentrations measured in Shafter in 2020. The applications likely causing the January high levels were located 7 miles from the Shafter air monitor and 3 miles for the October high levels. This provides strong evidence of 1,3 dichloropropene's ability to move long distances after application. Modeling done by the department predicted levels up to 100 ppb close to the application site.

Thank you again for protecting Californians' health and following the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act.

Sincerely,

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

Maya Flores, Organizer
Safe Ag Safe Schools

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

Patty Clary, Executive Director
Californians for Alternatives to Toxics

Kevin Hamilton, CEO
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Jeffrey Smedberg, Membership Secretary
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Asha Sharma, Organizing Co-Director
Pesticide Action Network

Megan Kaun, Director
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Andria Ventura, Policy Director
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Michael Freund, Attorney
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Jonathan Evans, Environmental Health Legal Director
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Physicians for Social Responsibility – Sacramento

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Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment

Catherine Dodd, PhD, RN, Director
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Jimena Diaz Leiva, Science Director
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Bianca Lopez, Co-Founder/Project-Director
Valley Improvement Projects

Martha Dina Argüello, Executive Director
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles

Maricela Morales, Executive Director
CAUSE

Nayamin Martinez, Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

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Monterey Bay Central Labor Council

Catherine Garoupa White, Executive Director
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Teresa Gomez, Organizer
Ventura County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety

Maria Reyes, President
Tulare County Coalition Advocating for Pesticide Safety