September 1, 2023

Dear Agricultural Commissioner Hidalgo:

Given the Department of Pesticide Regulation's (DPR) latest air monitoring network results showing 1,3-dichloropropene exposure in our farmworker communities continues at a level more than twice the safe harbor level established by the Office of Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), as well as recent scientific research indicating 1,3-D is even more widespread and harmful than previously understood, *we once again call on you to take the following actions:*

*a) Immediately web-post the Notices of Intent for 1,3-D applications that the growers send to you in real time in the entire county.*

*b) Restrict 1,3-D approvals to keep the air concentration levels below OEHHA's safe harbor level of 0.04 parts per billion.*

*c) Expand the buffer zones for 1,3-D use around schools to at least 1-mile, from their current legally required 1/4-mile.*

DPR released draft air monitoring network reports for the years 2020 – 2022 earlier this summer. Their results adjust some of their previous figures and add data for 2022. Most concerning for Monterey County, despite a drought year in 2022 and an all-time lowest air monitoring result at Ohlone Elementary School, is that the average 1,3-D air concentration over the last 11 years is more than double the 0.04 ppb concentration found to be the lifetime cancer risk level by OEHHA.

The 2020 report also provides information about the last year of testing in Chualar, finding no detection there in 2020, yet still yielding a 0.04 ppb average over the four years of monitoring. That means that all three pesticide air monitors used in Monterey County since 2011 -- in Chualar, at the Salinas Airport, and at Ohlone Elementary School – exceeded the State's official lifetime cancer risk level for 1,3-D. DPR's pesticide air monitoring data is summarized in the table below (blanks mean no full year of testing was reported).

| **Site** | **Annual air concentration of 1,3-dichloropropene in parts per billion, reported by DPR** | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Year | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | **Ave.** |
| Ohlone Elementary | | 0.16 | 0.13 | 0.09 | 0.12 | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.05 | 0.06 | 0.12 | 0.06 | 0.03 | **0.09** |
| Salinas Airport | 0.30 | 0.06 | 0.09 | 0.01 | 0.04 | 0.04 | | | | | | | **0.09** |
| Chualar | | | | | | | 0.10 | 0.03 | 0.04 | No detect | | | **0.04** |

A new concern regarding 1,3-D is its presence in frequently used household products in California, despite the fact that 1,3-D is not an ingredient in any such product. Scientific research published earlier this year stated:

> We prioritized [as posing "a health risk to consumers"] 1,3-dichloropropene … for consumers ... 1,3-dichloropropene, listed on Prop 65 for cancer, appeared in three CARB [California Air Resources Board] product categories. We prioritized it for consumer exposures due to its presence in "Hand Dishwashing Soap" and "Other Miscellaneous Household Products".

Since 1,3-D is getting into household products, it may be a threat to other products produced in Monterey County – another reason to reduce 1,3-D applications.

Another scientific report from China earlier in 2023 found the first recorded case of death from 1,3-D exposure. The researchers summarized:

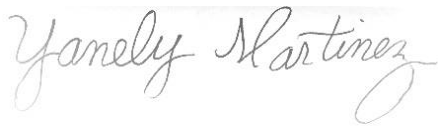
> This article describes the case of a 50-year-old man who died of acute renal failure and brain edema after inhaling 1, 3-dichloropropene at work. This case demonstrates that 1, 3-dichloropropene can be absorbed through the respiratory tract and that exposure to 1, 3-dichloropropene in a confined environment without any protective measures can cause death in humans.

Banned or not approved in 34 countries, 1,3-D is the fourth most used pesticide in Monterey County, at more than three-quarters of a million pounds in 2021.[1] **More than 88% of all 1,3-D applications by pounds occurred in the 14 Latino-majority Monterey and Santa Cruz County zip codes**. In those 14 zip codes -- accounting for 45% of land area and 47% of the overall population of our region – is **where more than three-quarters (77%) of Latinos and two-thirds (66%) of Indigenous people but only 18% of White ("Not Hispanic") people live**.[2]

In farmworker communities in this County, it is difficult – maybe impossible – to avoid exposure to 1,3-D. It's in the air at cancer-causing levels. It's in basic household products. It's more dangerous than we thought.

We request again that you help protect us from 1,3-D, as you are the only person in the County who can.

Sincerely,



Yanely Martinez
Organizer, Safe Ag Safe Schools – Monterey Bay

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[1] Monterey County applied 783,508 pounds of 1,3-D.
https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pur/pur21rep/top5lists/top_5_chemical_subtotals_by_pounds_applied.pdf

[2] "Table 3c: Race (Hispanic Exclusive) and Hispanic Origin" for demographic Zip Code Tabulation Areas at the US Census Bureau (https://dof.ca.gov/reports/demographic-reports/census-2010/) for total population, "White alone, Not Hispanic," "Hispanic or Latino," and "American Indian and Alaska Native alone, Not Hispanic" populations; https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org for square mile data; https://calpip.cdpr.ca.gov/main.cfm for 1,3-D use by pounds by zip code, yielding 908,750 pounds within the following majority Latino zip codes: 93450, 93901, 93905, 93906, 93925, 93926, 93927, 93930, 93954, 93960, 95012, 95019, 95039, 95076.