



Julie Henderson
Director

March 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Gustavo, Angel, Anne, Bianca, Nayamin, Jane, and Asha:

Thank you again for your letter dated February 12, 2024 and appreciate the discussion we had on February 27, 2024 about your priorities and concerns. As we shared in our meeting, we view the standing bi-monthly Environmental Justice (EJ) calls as an opportunity to engage directly with you as community leaders to build relationships, discuss key issues, and share updates on department initiatives, as we do with other stakeholder groups. The conversations we've had in those meetings have informed DPR's work and the department's overall direction.

With your engagement, we have made progress in a number of key areas including language access, County Agricultural Commissioner engagement with community members, and development of the pesticide notification system. Our engagement with you also informed our budget change proposal and draft strategic plan, both of which reflect our focus on and commitment to environmental justice and equity.

We are committed to meaningfully engage directly and in-person with impacted communities. As part of the statewide launch of the notification system, we are planning broad community outreach, including hosting an in-person meeting in the Cutler/Orosi area to include Notification Beta Test participants. We look forward to engaging with those of you in the Tulare area to consider ways to make this event as accessible and effective as possible. We would additionally appreciate your feedback on our overall statewide community outreach plan, which we anticipate launching later in the year. We are also planning in-person community meetings with EJ organizations to directly engage with impacted residents, including high school students, later this Spring. It is our intention to expand and increase these types of direct engagement events in the future.

As we increase and expand our public outreach and community engagement, we are developing and implementing procedural improvements to better prepare and guide our staff in their public engagements. We have begun implementing related training, starting with all managers and supervisors. We are also developing a broader internal training plan that includes elements of cultural humility and internal bias.

In response to several of the other items you raised, we will be following up for additional conversations. Our Assistant Director over the Registration Branch, JT Teerlink, has reached out to Anne Katten to further discuss DCPA and our communication with US EPA. Our Assistant Director over the Environmental Monitoring Branch, Nan Singhasemanon, will follow up to discuss the draft proposal for 1,3-dichloropropene occupational bystander regulations.

We appreciate Asha sharing PANNA and CPR's priorities in writing related to the mill fee recommendations. We look forward to continuing conversations through the budget and policy processes.

Thank you again for sharing your concerns and priorities. Please let us know if any adaptations to the current meeting format would help improve your experience, as we do find great value in these regularly scheduled group calls in building our relationships with you, hearing and understanding your concerns and priorities, and working together to protect people and the environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Henderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julie Henderson
Director