

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
AGENDA ITEM**

DEPT: Agricultural Commissioner

BOARD AGENDA:7.2
AGENDA DATE: April 15, 2025

CONSENT

CEO CONCURRENCE: YES

4/5 Vote Required: No

SUBJECT:

Acknowledgement of the Results of a Seasonal Air Study Conducted in Grayson, Monterey Park Tract and Hughson by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Acknowledge the results of a Seasonal Air Study conducted in the communities of Grayson, Monterey Park Tract and Hughson by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation.

DISCUSSION:

In September 2023, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) selected Stanislaus County to conduct a Seasonal Air Monitoring Study. The county was chosen due to its high pesticide use from 2019 to 2021 and consistently high rankings in the CDPR Air Program's Site Selection Report. Among the pesticides used in production agriculture during that period, 1,3-Dichloropropene was the most heavily applied, accounting for 33% of all active ingredients used. Prior to this study, CDPR had not conducted any studies in Stanislaus County specifically targeting fumigant pesticides used in agricultural production.

From October through December 2023, CDPR collaborated with the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the local environmental justice group Valley Improvement Projects (VIP) to identify and secure three air monitoring locations: Grayson, Monterey Park Tract, and Hughson. Preference was given to sites located at or near schools. After selecting the monitoring sites, CDPR held community meetings in each of the three locations to inform residents about the planned study and its objectives, and to announce CDPR's intention to return with the results.

The primary objective of the study was to monitor the presence of fumigant pesticides—1,3-Dichloropropene (1,3-D), chloropicrin, and MITC (which includes metam sodium, metam potassium, and dazomet)—in ambient air during the high-use months of February, March, April, and May 2024. Once the study was completed and the data reviewed, CDPR's additional goal was to communicate the results to the public by publishing a report and providing presentations to communities located near the air monitoring sites.

The air monitoring study was conducted in Grayson, Monterey Park Tract, and Hughson from January 29 through May 10, 2024. At each site, four 24-hour air samples were collected per week, covering Monday through Friday.

Preliminary results from the study found that both acute (short-term, 24-hour) and sub-

chronic (medium-term, 4 to 13 weeks) concentrations of the monitored fumigants were very low. None of the measured levels exceeded 4% of the regulatory threshold targets for maximum allowable concentrations. These findings suggest minimal risk from ambient air exposure to the monitored pesticides during the study period.

Staff from CDPR will attend the April 15, 2025, Board of Supervisors Meeting and present the findings. Copies of the presentation will be available following the Board of Supervisors Meeting.

POLICY ISSUE:

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) conducts seasonal air monitoring studies to assess pesticide levels in high-use areas near communities. The data collected from these studies is used to evaluate health risks, develop mitigation measures, and assess the effectiveness of regulations.

Preliminary results from CDPR's Seasonal Air Monitoring Study indicate that levels of targeted agricultural fumigants were well below health-protective benchmarks, suggesting minimal ambient air exposure risk during the study period. These findings affirm the effectiveness of existing regulatory measures in limiting community exposure. However, to ensure continued public health protection and maintain trust—particularly in historically impacted communities—ongoing air monitoring and transparent public communication remain critical policy priorities.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Seasonal Air Monitoring Study was conducted and primarily funded by CDPR. A nominal amount of County funds was used to support community outreach efforts associated with the study.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' PRIORITY:

The recommended action is consistent with the Board of Supervisors' priorities of *Supporting a Strong and Safe Community*, *Supporting a Healthy Community*, and *Developing a High-Performing Economy* by protecting the well-being of agriculture, the environment, business, and the community.

STAFFING IMPACT:

The Seasonal Air Monitoring Study was led and implemented by CDPR. The impact to County staffing was minimal, limited primarily to coordination and support for community outreach activities. Existing staff from the Agricultural Commissioner's Office assisted in identifying monitoring locations and facilitating public meetings, with no need for additional personnel or significant reallocation of resources. The results of the study are supported by the Agricultural Commissioner's Office, particularly staff associated with the Pesticide Use Enforcement program, who contributed expertise and local context throughout the process.

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