



CENTER ON RACE, POVERTY
& THE ENVIRONMENT

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Environmental Advocates and Community Leaders Urge California Officials to #BanChlorpyrifos

Exposure to the pesticide chlorpyrifos is linked to serious public health risks

Sacramento, CA | November 8, 2018 -- Today, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) will hear oral comments in regards to a proposed regulation that would allow for increased restrictions on the use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos by labeling it as a “toxic air contaminant” (TAC) in the state of California. The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE), along with Californians for Pesticide Reform (CPR), community members, and representatives from Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA) and Committee for a Better Shafter (CBS), will be attending the hearing today in Sacramento, concluding a [45 day public comment period](#) that began in September.

Paulina Torres, Staff Attorney at CRPE, stated, “The science is clear: children and pregnant women are being exposed to a chemical that permanently damages the developing brain. DPR’s legal authority is also clear: it has the power to immediately cancel and suspend chlorpyrifos registrations. What isn’t clear to me is why DPR continues to allow the poisoning of our children.” She goes on to add, “DPR must immediately suspend and cancel chlorpyrifos registrations, while formal assessment of control measures are evaluated.”

Chlorpyrifos is a pesticide that poses several [serious public health risks](#). First, chlorpyrifos is a neurotoxin that attacks the central nervous system. Second, a growing body of published scientific research links exposure to chlorpyrifos with long-term harmful human health effects, including neuro-developmental disorders, hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, low birth weights, and reduced newborn head circumference, which is indicative of impaired cognitive ability.

“Our children are exposed to chlorpyrifos day and night to a harming pesticide that can have irreversible effects on their health. It’s awful that Kern County has the highest use of chlorpyrifos in the state year after year. Each year, the value of the crops in Kern County grow and big business keeps raking in the profits while our front line communities are being harmed by their practices,” said Byanka Santoyo, CRPE Community Organizer. Over 203,000 pounds of chlorpyrifos was [applied in 2016](#) in Kern County, alone. During the same time period, close to 903,000 pounds were applied statewide.

The negative effects of the pesticides use are far-reaching according to CBA President Estela Escota. “This pesticide is affecting everyone, from the youngest person to the oldest person. We need ban it now for our safety.” Listing chlorpyrifos as a TAC would mean that a mitigation process in consultation with other state and local agencies including the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) would begin. DPR is granted 2 years to adopt control measures, however, time is of the essence as more and more Californians are harmed while waiting for resolution.

DPR will be accepting oral comments at a hearing will be taking place at at the California Environmental Protection Agency headquarters, 1001 I Street, in Sacramento, California starting at 2pm. Any person wishing to make a comment on whether the pesticide should be designated as such can submit written comments to dpr18002@cdpr.ca.gov. Public comment closes on November 9.

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The Center on Race, Poverty, & the Environment (CRPE) is an environmental justice organization providing legal, organizing, and technical assistance to grassroots groups in low-income communities and communities of color. Our mission is to achieve environmental justice and healthy, sustainable communities through collective action and the law. Follow us on [twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).