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CONTACT: Valerie Gorospe, (661) 303-1032, vgorospe@crpe-ej.org

Communities Celebrate the Cancellation of Chlorpyrifos in California *CalEPA and Governor Newsom move to protect farmworker communities*

Sacramento, CA | May 8th, 2019: California’s Environmental Protection Agency [announced](#) today that it will initiate the cancellation proceedings for pesticides containing chlorpyrifos. [Robust studies](#) have linked 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.

California’s [most recent data](#) shows that over 900,000 pounds of chlorpyrifos were applied in the state of California, and over 203,000 pounds were applied in Kern County [alone](#). Chlorpyrifos has a disproportionate effect on low income communities of color who live, work, and go to school in direct proximity to where this poisonous pesticide is applied. The harmful effects of chlorpyrifos are particularly acute in farmworker communities alongside crop fields.

“We applaud both Governor Newsom and CalEPA Secretary Jared Blumenfeld for their leadership on protecting the health of Californians, especially our children and agricultural communities,” said CRPE Staff Attorney Paulina Torres. “We are encouraged by this unprecedented and long-overdue action to finally ban this harmful neurotoxin. And we look forward to a swift cancellation process — the sooner the ban takes effect, the safer our most vulnerable populations will be.”

It could take between six months and two years for the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to end the use of chlorpyrifos. DPR will consult with county agricultural commissioners and local air pollution control districts before filing for cancellation. To help growers transition to a safer alternative, Governor Newsom will propose \$5.7 million in new budget funding to support the transition to safer, more sustainable alternatives.

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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](#).