



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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PESTICIDE NOTIFICATION PILOT LAUNCHES IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

The County of Santa Cruz is pleased to partner with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to offer a pilot pesticide notification program to advance environmental justice and provide advance notice to residents living near agricultural properties where regulated pesticide applications may occur.

The voluntary pilot program, one of four established throughout the State of California, provides residents of the Senior Village Community in Watsonville with an online database search function, and the option to sign up for notifications, for planned pesticide applications of California Restricted Material pesticides 1,3-dichloropropene, chloropicrin and metam potassium on crops within a one-mile radius of a valid street address. Notification to residents within the pilot community will be provided at least 36 hours prior to the scheduled pesticide application.

"We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with DPR on this pilot project and look forward to receiving comments and feedback from our community and growers, which will be important as DPR develops a statewide notification system," County Agricultural Commissioner Juan Hidalgo said.

The notification system will advance the state's goal of providing community access to information in advance of applications and complement existing pesticide laws and regulations that protect public health and the environment.

"We're thankful for the opportunity to work closely with Commissioner Hidalgo and his office to help integrate a notification pilot project in their county," DPR Director Julie Henderson said. "This pilot project, and others in Riverside, Ventura and Stanislaus counties, will provide valuable information, including feedback from community members, growers and other stakeholders that will inform the design of the statewide system."

Residents may use the system's search function or sign up to receive a text or email notification by visiting the Agricultural Commissioner's Office webpage at www.agdept.com, clicking on "Pesticide Notification Pilot Project" and selecting "Subscribe Now".

The development of the pilot notification system is funded through the \$10 million allocated to DPR in the 2021-2022 state budget. Governor Gavin Newsom, CalEPA and DPR are taking bold steps to accelerate a transition to safer and more sustainable pest management practices and protect human health and the environment through transparent and equitable access to information.

Additional information on the county-led pilot projects can be found [on the DPR's website](#). People with questions may call the Santa Cruz County Agricultural Commissioner's Office at (831) 763-8080.