California Seed Association
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VIA Electronic Mail to rsegawa@cdpr.ca.gov

Mr. Randy Segawa
Team Leader
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P.O. Box 4015
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December 2, 2004

RE: California Seed Association's (CSA) Comments on the Draft California Department of Pesticide Regulation Environmental Justice Pi;ot Project, Pesticide Air Monitoring in a Rural Community

Dear Mr. Segawa:

On behalf of the California Seed Association (CSA) l am submitting comments on the California Department of Pesticide Regulations' (CADPR) Draft Environmental Justice Pilot Project. We would like to start by commending the work that the CADPR already does for Californians in protecting the environment and communities.

In general we believe in order for the EJ Action Plan to be successful in an acceptable time frame the plan must be: clearly stated, terms well defined, and studies must be science-based using peer reviewed, and accepted methodology. This also extends to the individual pilot projects that have been proposed. We agree that the DPR Pilot Project must be "SMART". We would like to express our concern that only science- based studies, using peer reviewed methodologies be used in the Pilot Project. In addition we believe that to use default values or data points when there is not available data is a disservice to the project and community and will not provide the science–based information that is needed to make good sound judgments and to develop policy. We are also concerned that as suggested by CADPR, that staff time and funding is limited and this could cause existing programs to be put at risk.

The parameters for the site selection for the pilot project must be given careful consideration, In order for any study to have validity controls must be used to give a basis of comparison that has statistical significance The proposed project does not currently address this and we would like to see that corrected in the project plan. In addition it is important to identify communities that are truly represent the diversity of the Central Valley. Suggestions for selecting the site should include the following parameters; the

community should be agriculturally based, with a balance of people of both economic and ethnic diversity, and a location with a school near rural agricultural production would be ideal. The cropping patterns should be diverse not only in the types of crops but in terms of the production seasons, winter and summer. The site should include production of a variety of crops, row crops like cotton and corn, forage crops, for example alfalfa, trees and vines and winter vegetable crops for instance garlic and lettuce.

In choosing the pesticide to monitor we urge you to avoid selecting a "Restricted Use Pesticide", Proposition 65 Pesticide or pesticides with Danger or Warning Signals; instead we suggest you target products that are more widely used taking into consideration the use season for the products. If sampling is to take place year round a more extensive list of pesticides to be sampled would be in order to match the use patterns for the community.

It was clear judging from some of the comments made at the workshop on November 8, 2004 that there is a lack of understanding as to the elements involved in pesticide use in California. Therefore it is imperative that the terminology that is used be clear and well defined prior to the establishment of pilot projects, including for example which standards will be used to determine if levels are cause for human health concerns, are these to be USEPA or CADPR standards?

Therefore when establishing the parameters for the DPR Pilot Project we urge you to use only clearly defined terminology, science-based, peer reviewed methodology for collecting data and conducting inventories, and realize the importance of cost effectiveness when making these decisions. This should take place prior to developing the proposed project.

To conclude, CSA believes that the CADPR EJ Pilot Project might be better met by focusing their efforts on existing programs for enforcement, risk assessment and environmental monitoring. Wouldn't it be better to review and analyze the information that CADPR already has to meet the objectives of the Pilot Project rather than taking the limited resources to re-invent the wheel? To not do this could put in jeopardy the existing programs for enforcement due to lack of sufficient funds and staff time.

We realize that this is a big task that is being undertaken and we commend your efforts to date. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Pilot Project and are looking forward to the opportunity to continue working with you as this project develops. We thank you for If you have any questions, please free to call me at (916) 441-2251.

Sincerely,

Betsy Peterson
Associate Director Technical Services