



# Illustrating How the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Will Use Screening Levels\* in its Parlier Air Monitoring Project

**\*Screening level:** Screening levels are based on a pesticide’s toxicity. DPR scientists start by developing a level for each pesticide based on laboratory animal data. Then the level is adjusted using scientifically accepted assumptions designed to protect human health. This is to account for possible differences in sensitivity between animals and people (to be protective, people are assumed to be more sensitive to effects than animals), and between different people (some people are assumed to be more sensitive than others, and children may be especially susceptible). Monitored air concentrations below the screening level suggest a low health risk, but should not automatically be considered “safe.” At the same time, concentrations above the screening level do not necessarily mean health problems will occur. Screening levels are tools to help DPR decide which detections need further evaluation.

