

Chapter 5c: Pesticides

Community Concerns



The ECV community is home to a large amount of agricultural activities, including the production of dates, grapes, citrus, and other crops. The CSC expressed concerns about the use and application of pesticides and the resulting agricultural run-off that may collect in the Salton Sea sediment. Concerns raised by the CSC include the unknown adverse health effects of pesticides, odors and potential toxicity resulting from possible exposure. CSC members expressed concerns regarding regulatory enforcement. They reported that pesticides are being applied during restricted hours and drift into homes

and schools near application sites, despite current regulations that are in place. The CSC also raised concerns about farmworker exposure to pesticides, often in excessive amounts and without proper personal protective equipment and training. CSC members expressed a need for a pesticide application notification system that informs the community before pesticides are applied, allowing residents to make informed decisions about avoiding outdoor activities that could increase their exposure (e.g., outdoor exercise). Please see Appendix 5c for more details.

Actions to Address Pesticides

South Coast AQMD staff developed actions for the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) to address community concerns about pesticide emissions and exposures. Additionally, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is initiating efforts to develop a statewide pesticide application notification system. Tables 1 and 2 below provide a goal, action, responsible entity, applicable metrics, and an implementation timeline to achieve the emission and exposure reductions due to pesticide use and applications.

Table 1 - Goal: Air Monitoring for Pesticides

	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	<p>Pursue a collaborative partnership with CARB and consult with California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to consider developing an air monitoring strategy to study the use of pesticides in ECV, and work with scientists at public health agencies with expertise in pesticide toxicity to identify key pesticides of concern for air monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a screening evaluation of the pesticides used in this community, and work with the CSC to identify the key pesticides of concern for monitoring efforts • Work with DPR to define the purpose of air monitoring, and develop a plan that identifies the sampling locations, extent of sampling, and equipment that will be used • Determine if specific pesticides are present and at what levels to help determine community impact • Assess the monitoring data and if monitoring results show unacceptable pesticide levels in ambient air, work with DPR and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to take steps towards identifying potential exposure reduction measures (e.g., development of new use restrictions by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, or pesticide regulations by DPR, if needed) 	South Coast AQMD, CARB, DPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Type of equipment to be deployed and extent of the deployment • Updates provided to the CSC 	3 rd quarter, 2021	1 st quarter, 2026

Table 2 – Goal: Reduce Pesticide Emissions and Exposures

	Action	Responsible Entity	Metric	Timeline	
				Start	Complete
A	<p>Pursue a collaborative partnership with CARB and Growing Coachella Valley Local Farmers and Growers and consult with the California DPR and the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather data about the use of pesticides in the community (e.g., the frequency, volume, composition, potential for community exposures and toxicity of pesticides applied to agricultural crops) • Based on data on pesticide use, evaluate potential community impacts from agricultural pesticide use in ECV • Based on the evaluation of community impacts, identify and evaluate opportunities to reduce pesticide emissions and exposures, such as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify funding to install and maintain air filtration systems at schools, community centers and homes to reduce exposure to pesticides, ○ Identify funding to implement weatherization projects in homes near agricultural fields ○ Based on opportunities identified, evaluate emission reduction targets, where quantifiable 	South Coast AQMD, CARB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of opportunities identified and pursued to reduce pesticide emissions and exposure • Number of weatherization and air filtration projects implemented • If quantifiable, amount of emissions and/or exposure reductions achieved • Updates (e.g., pesticide data, community impacts, monitoring results) provided to the CSC 	1 st quarter, 2021	1 st quarter 2026
B	<p>Consult with DPR and the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner and collaborate with Growing Coachella Valley Local Farmers and Growers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide the CSC an annual update on statewide efforts to develop a pesticide application notification system based on the Shafter Pilot Project • Provide community members with information on the types of pesticides applied in ECV, how to report pesticide drift and ways to reduce pesticide exposure 	South Coast AQMD, DPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a notification system • Number of informational handouts or educational materials provided • Updates provided to the CSC 	1 st quarter, 2022	TBD

C	Consult with the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner and scientists at public health agencies with expertise in pesticide toxicity to make pesticide data for the ECV community more easily accessible (e.g., publicly available) for community members, including farm workers	South Coast AQMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates provided to the CSC 	3 rd quarter, 2022	TBD
D	Consult with DPR and USEPA Region 9 to provide outreach materials, training, information on personal protective equipment and ways to reduce worker exposure during pesticide application	South Coast AQMD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of trainings or information provided (e.g., handouts) 	2 nd quarter, 2022	TBD