

EXHIBIT 1

FY 2018-2019 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

RESPONSES TO FINDINGS (FI) AND RECOMMENDATIONS (R)

Report Number
Respondents
(& Date)

Report Title

(With FI, C and R #)

REPORT NO. 01 April 25, 2019

Title:

Pesticide Monitoring Near Schools and Day-Care Centers

Required

Respondent:

Board of Supervisors (Joint response with Agricultural Commissioner)
(R-01)

Requested
Respondent:

Agricultural Commissioner (Joint response with Board of Supervisors)
(C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04 and R-01)

Response to Grand Jury Report Form

Report Title: Pesticide Monitoring Near Schools and Day-Care Centers

Report Date: April 25, 2019

Responding Agency/Depts: Board of Supervisors/Agricultural Commissioner

Response By: Edmund E. Williams
Mike Pettit

Title: Agricultural Commissioner
Title: Assistant County Executive Officer

CONCLUSIONS

- I (we) agree with the findings numbered: C-01, C-02, C-03, and C-04
- I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered: C-05

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations numbered N/A have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A have not yet been implemented but will be implemented in the future.
(Attach a timeframe for the implementation.)
- Recommendations numbered N/A require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.)
- Recommendations numbered R-01 will not be implemented because they are not warranted or are not reasonable.

Date: October 30, 2019

Signed: Mike Pettit

Number of Pages Attached: 4

**Ventura County 2018 – 2019 Grand Jury Final Report
Responses To Findings and Recommendations**

Report Date: April 25, 2019

Report Title: Pesticide Monitoring Near Schools and Day-Care Centers

Required Respondents: Board of Supervisors (R-01)

Requested Respondents: Agricultural Commissioner (C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04 and R-01)

Response By: Board of Supervisors

Recommendations:

R-01. The Grand Jury recommends that VCAC establish more comprehensive air sampling of pesticides and fumigants, either stationary or mobile, at additional locations in Ventura County where there are clusters of schools and day-care centers. This would give increased assurance of public health and safety intended by these regulations. (C-01, C-02, C-03, C-04, C-05)

R-01: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable at this time.

In 2011, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) implemented a multi-year statewide air monitoring network to sample ambient air in agricultural communities around California. In 2017, CDPR expanded and enhanced its *Air Monitoring Network (AMN)* to sample for 31 pesticides and 5 pesticide breakdown products in 8 communities around California. The CDPR conducted studies on the best placement and configuration of testing stations at several sites as they set up this network and have made the determination that the existing stations best meet their intended purpose.

CDPR uses the data gathered to evaluate and improve protective measures against acute and sub-chronic pesticide exposure. One of these important monitoring stations associated with the network is located in Oxnard, Ventura County at the Rio Mesa High School. The AMN recently released the results for 2018 in a press release on July 16, 2019. Results for Rio Mesa found only 8 of 36 chemicals monitored were detected at any level, and only 3 were detected at quantifiable levels. Levels for these 3 were well below acute or sub-chronic health risk levels. Another site is in Cuyama on the Northern edge of Ventura County. Detailed information is available online at:

https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/airinit/air_monitoring_results/executive_summary.htm

The CDPR has conducted a myriad of air monitoring studies aimed at evaluating and mitigating acute exposure risk throughout California. Many of those studies, especially those associated with fumigant use, were conducted here in Ventura County over many years. CDPR gave a presentation to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in June 2015 outlining much of that work.

The AMN is unique to California. It is a comprehensive program, developed in collaboration and consultation with numerous agencies and included input collected during public outreach sessions. The goals of the AMN are to provide data that assists in assessing potential health risks, developing measures to mitigate risks, and measuring the effectiveness of regulatory requirements. Any change or expansion of the AMN is, and should remain, the responsibility of the state California.



Agricultural Commissioner
Edmund E. Williams

Chief Deputy
Korinne M. Bell



July 16, 2019

Civil Grand Jury
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Response to May 31, 2019, Grand Jury Recommendations Related to Pesticide Monitoring Near Schools and Day-Care Centers.

We thank the Grand Jury for their comprehensive report: *Pesticide Monitoring Near Schools and Day-Care Centers*. We agree with the fundamental conclusion that the Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner (VCAC) and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) have been effective in reducing exposure of students and faculty in campuses adjacent to agricultural use of pesticides.

The Grand Jury's conclusions (C-01 – C-04) recognize both the concerns about risk of exposure and the demonstrated success of work done to reduce that risk.

With respect to Conclusion C-05 and the resulting Recommendation (R-01), we take some exception. While intuitively it seems that “more” sampling stations provide more information and potentially greater assurance of safety, “more” is not always better.

In 2011, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) implemented a multi-year statewide air monitoring network to sample ambient air in agricultural communities around California. In 2017, DPR expanded and enhanced its *Air Monitoring Network* (AMN) to sample for 31 pesticides and 5 pesticide breakdown products in 8 communities around California. The CDPR conducted studies on the best placement and configuration of testing stations at several sites as they set up this network and have made the determination that the existing stations best meet their intended purpose.

DPR uses the data gathered to evaluate and improve protective measures against acute and sub-chronic pesticide exposure. One of these important monitoring stations associated with the network is located in Oxnard, Ventura County at the Rio Mesa High School. The AMN just released the results for 2018 in a press release today. Results for Rio Mesa found only 8 of 36 chemicals monitored were detected at any level, and only 3 were detected at quantifiable levels. Levels for these 3 were well below acute or sub-chronic health risk levels. Another site is in Cuyama on the Northern edge of Ventura County. Detailed information is available online at: https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/airinit/air_monitoring_results/executive_summary.htm

Response to Grand Jury
July 16, 2019
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We greatly appreciate the confidence that the Ventura County Civil Grand Jury has expressed in our pesticide monitoring and enforcement program and we will strive to continue our efforts to protect the public and agriculture through this important work. Please let me know if you have any further comments or questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Edmund E. Williams', with a stylized, cursive script.

Edmund E. Williams

CC: Ventura County Board of Supervisors
County Executive Officer, Michael Powers