



SUMMARY OF AN INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS OF PARLIER AIR MONITORING DATA AND HEALTH IMPACTS

A group of concerned farmers and farm organizations has taken a proactive step to verify that findings from air monitoring data collected as part of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's Environmental Justice Pilot Project in Parlier do not pose a health risk for the residents. An independent party was brought in to conduct a review of pesticides detected in and around Parlier during a period of one year. The independent study was conducted by Dr. Rick Reiss, Director of the Center for Exposure Assessment and Dose Reconstruction at Exponent Inc. which is located in Alexandria, VA. The review by Exponent is extremely conservative in estimating potential health risks associated with the pesticides measured, which means it tends to err on the side of overestimating risk. Major findings from this analysis are listed below and the complete report is available upon request.

Report Highlights:

- The review concludes there are no significant health concerns for residents breathing pesticides in the air.
- The pesticide concentrations measured by DPR in Parlier were very low.
- The compounds measured in this study included 30 pesticides, 25 volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and 29 metals.
- There were 468 occasions for the measurement of each pesticide. For the majority of pesticide samples collected by DPR throughout this year-long project, there was either no pesticide present or the amount was so low that it could not be detected.
- For all but one of the pesticides found during the monitoring period, the levels detected are well below what are considered to be safe.
- The one pesticide – diazinon -- which did exceed the safety level did so on one day during the entire year-long monitoring period. Because of the conservative nature of the safety levels used, this single detection is not considered to be of any health concern.
- There were two VOCs that exceeded levels considered safe. It was concluded that the source of these two compounds – acrolein and formaldehyde – was motor vehicle emissions.
- One metal – chlorine – slightly exceeded the level considered safe. However, there was no pesticide use of chlorine in Parlier during the monitoring period.