

June 16, 2009

Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California,  
Honorable Karen Bass, Speaker of the Assembly,  
Honorable Darrell Steinberg, Senate President Pro Tem,  
Honorable Sam Blakeslee, Assembly Republican Leader,  
Honorable Dennis Hollingsworth, Senate Republican Leader,

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger and Legislative Leadership:

## DPR Scientists Against Moving Pesticide Risk Assessment to OEHHA

### Committee Meeting

The Senate Environmental Quality Committee voted on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009 to move all of the risk assessment program functions of the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to the Office of Environmental Hazard Assessment (OEHHA). This proposal apparently is based on the misconception that public health and the environment would be better served by an organizational separation between risk assessment and risk management within DPR. As rebutted below, this proposal should not stand.

### DPR Risk Assessment Authority

DPR, via several statutory mandates, operates an integrated, multi-media, pesticide-specific risk assessment program in California. This comprehensive program includes identifying the toxicity characteristics of pesticides, both to humans and other organisms, and determining how people and the environment are exposed to pesticides. Based on these scientific assessments, DPR will then make a management decision regarding the appropriate and necessary measures for protecting people and the environment from unacceptable risks.

### Opposition

Based on testimony made during the meeting supporting a transfer, it is implied that DPR scientific staff are not competent to carry out their statutory mandates. First and foremost, the signatories below categorically reject any statements that may impugn our competence, scientific integrity or professionalism during the June 10<sup>th</sup> hearing. Additionally, the proposal is seriously flawed for several other technical reasons as listed below.

- This is a policy issue and the proposal should be based on deliberative hearings and not done hastily with little public notice or input as a budgetary solution. Neither DPR scientific staff nor management were allowed to provide expert testimony during the Senate Committee hearing.

- There has been no credible evidence presented that the public health has been compromised by the DPR risk assessment process. Therefore, there is no justification or need for a change. DPR

risk assessments are subjected to rigorous peer review by scientific experts both within and outside of California. Since this rigorous peer review process includes OEHHA, current DPR pesticide Risk Characterization Documents already reflect their scientific input. Therefore, the urgency for this authority transfer should be seriously questioned and delayed.

- This proposal would split DPR's human toxicology assessment from the human exposure assessment and would leave the ecological risk assessment function intact within DPR. This would create unnecessary confusion and require redundant expertise at both DPR and OEHHA. This could result in a future, unseen, general-fund expense.

- Finally, DPR's multi-media approach, which assesses dietary, workplace, residential and ecological pesticide risk across air, soil and water would be eliminated. The loss of DPR's multi-media approach for pesticides would be significant to the people of California.

### Conclusion

DPR's integrated, multi-media, pesticide risk assessment program is scientifically sound and widely recognized to be of world-class quality. DPR strictly separates its risk management activities from risk assessment, so that risk management decisions are made transparently, using the recommendations from the risk assessors. During the hearing, it was noted that OEHHA staff participate on national and international committees. It must be stated that many DPR scientific staff are also members of the same and other national and international committees. The DPR scientific staff are ethical and extremely competent and therefore fully stand behind their risk assessment work. DPR scientific staff are here to protect the people and environment of California. It must be strongly stated that the transfer proposal looks like a solution to a problem that currently does not exist. We respectfully request that you, our elected California leadership, stop the proposal to move the responsibility for conducting pesticide risk assessments from DPR to OEHHA during the FY2009-10 budget process.

cc:

Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Robert Blumenfield, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Kevin DeLeon, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Roger Niello, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Jim Nielsen, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Denise Ducheny, Vice-Chair, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Bob Dutton, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Mark Leno, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Alan Lowenthal, Budget Conference Committee  
Honorable Mimi Walters, Budget Conference Committee  
Mary-Ann Warmerdam, Director, Department of Pesticide Regulation

Scientist Name	Scientist Signature	Postgraduate degree (s)	Additional Certification	Postgraduate Training University	Years of Risk Assessment Experience
Eric Kwok	[Signature]	Ph.D	D.A.B.T.	UC Riverside (Environ. Toxicology)	9
SVETLANA KASHUKOVA	[Signature]	Ph.D		SUNY Buffalo (Pharmacology and Toxicology)	8
Roger Cochran	[Signature]	Ph.D	D.A.B.T.	UCLA, The Johns Hopkins Univ.	19
Lori Lim	[Signature]	Ph.D.	D.A.B.T.	UC Davis (Pharmacology) Univ. Florida	19
Andrew Rubin	[Signature]	Ph.D.	D.A.B.T.	University of Washington (Physiology & Biophysics)	17
Carolyn Lewis	[Signature]	M.S.	DA-BT	U.C. Berkeley (nutrition)	20
Marilyn Silva	[Signature]	UC Davis U.C. Berkeley M.S., Ph.D.	DA-BT	Veterinary Anatomy UC Davis U.C. Berkeley (Toxicology)	20
MIGLENA WILBUR	[Signature]	Ph.D (Biochemistry)		Inst. Biolum. Physiol. of Microorg.	2.5
Linda M. Hall	[Signature]	Ph.D postdoc Sabbatical		RUSSELLA Academy of Sciences University of Wisconsin-Madison University of Br. Tech Columbia Grand St. University of Irvine University of California - Irvine	2.5
Joyce F. Gee	[Signature]	Ph. D.		Rutgers University, N.J.	24
Alendy Zhou	[Signature]	Ph.D.	M.D.	Texas A&M Univ. (Toxicology)	8.5
Thomas Thongsithakul	[Signature]	Ph.D.		Univ. of California, Davis	22
Nu-may Reed	[Signature]	Ph.D	DABT	Univ. of California, Davis	24
VINEK MATHRANI	[Signature]	Ph.D		Univ. of California, Davis	2.5

D.A.B.T. - Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology

Scientist Name	Scientist Signature	Postgraduate degree (s)	Additional Certification	Postgraduate Training University	Years of Risk Assessment Experience
DAVID RICE		Ph.D.		U.C. Davis	20+
Ian Reeve		Ph.D.		U.C. Davis (Pharmacology Toxicology)	4+
STEPHEN S. RINKES		Ph.D.		UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BRANCH AT GALVESTON, INSTITUTE OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH, RESEARCH AND LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LABORATORY	18
RICK DUNCAN			DABT		8 y
Sheryl Beavis		Ph.D.		Iowa State University	8 years
Mai Ngo		Ph.D.		University of California, Davis	2 yrs
ERIC MUEHLING		M.D.		FREEMAN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE	0.5
Joseph Frayk		D.Sc.		U.C. DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER Harvard University	18+
Wesley Carr		M.Sc.		California State University - Fresno	8 years
Jay Schwab		Ph.D.		University of Chicago U.C. Davis	20+
Harry Green		B.S.		U.C. Davis	
Mark Hansen		Ph.D.		U.C. Davis	8 years
Raigin Pan		M.Sc.		U.C. Davis	< 1 yr.
Thomas Kellner		Ph.D.	DABT	UC Davis	2 years

