

# Air Quality Priority: Pesticides

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## Purpose of Document

The purpose of this document is to summarize the Eastern Coachella Valley (ECV) Community Steering Committee (CSC) air quality concerns and provide potential strategies and actions to address these concerns in the Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). The CSC will determine the final strategies and actions proposed in the CERP. The ECV CERP will be considered for adoption by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board.

## Community Concerns (CC)

The ECV CSC expressed air quality concerns about the use and application of pesticides. The concerns raised by the CSC include:

- CC-1 The unknown adverse health effects of pesticides applied in ECV and the odors emitted from them.
- CC-2 Pesticide drift into homes and schools near application sites.
- CC-3 The application of pesticides during school hours and a lack of regulatory enforcement.
- CC-4 The impacts on farm workers regularly exposed to pesticides, often in excessive amounts, and without proper personal protective equipment and/or training.
- CC-5 Pesticide run-off into streams and other tributaries that flow into the Salton Sea.
- CC-6 Pesticide toxicity and whether some pesticides should be banned or more heavily regulated.
- CC-7 The lack of a system to notify community members of pesticide applications and provides information to residents in order for them to make informed decisions about participating in outdoor activities (e.g., outdoor exercise).
- CC-8 Agricultural operators should find alternatives to pesticide use (e.g., organic farming).

## Emissions Inventory or Data

*To Be Determined*

## Potential Strategies and Actions to Address Pesticides

Below are potential strategies and actions to address CSC concerns. The final strategies and actions in the proposed CERP will be determined by the CSC. The proposed CERP will be considered for adoption by the South Coast AQMD Governing Board.

Goals	Potential Strategies and Actions
<p><b>Reduce pesticide emissions and/or exposures</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a collaborative partnership with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, and the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gather data about the use of pesticides in the community (e.g. the frequency, volume, and toxicity of pesticides applied to agricultural crops)</li> <li>○ Conduct air monitoring to identify potential local air quality impacts from the use of pesticides (see air monitoring details below)</li> <li>○ Evaluate community impacts from pesticide use in ECV</li> <li>○ Evaluate opportunities to reduce pesticide emissions and/or exposures (e.g., best management practices, alternative pest management approaches, modified application methods, focused enforcement and additional regulatory measures)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Community Concerns Addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-3, CC-4, CC-5, CC-6, and CC-8</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a collaborative partnership with DPR and the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Develop a pilot project in ECV for a pesticide application notification system</li> <li>○ Provide community members with information (e.g., material safety data sheet) relating to pesticide types and usage and ways to report pesticide drift</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Community Concerns Addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-7</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a collaborative partnership with the Agricultural Commissioner to make pesticide use data more easily accessible for community members, including farm workers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Concerns Addressed: CC-1, CC-4, CC-6, CC-7</b></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue a collaborative partnership with DPR and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to consider providing training, information on personal protective equipment and ways to reduce worker exposure during pesticide application</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Concerns Addressed: CC-1, CC-4</b></p>
<p><b>Air Monitoring for Pesticides</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue collaborative partnerships with DPR, CARB and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to consider developing an air monitoring concept and work with California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) to make pesticide and toxicity data more accessible               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Work with DPR to define the air monitoring purpose and develop a detailed plan that identifies the sampling equipment that will be used and where the sampling will take place</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

- Determine if a pesticide is present and at what levels to help determine the community impact
- Assess the monitoring data and if monitoring finds unacceptable pesticide levels in ambient air, work with DPR and Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner to take steps to identify potential exposure reduction measures, or to develop new use restrictions administered by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, or pesticide regulations

***Community Concerns Addressed: CC-1, CC-2, CC-3, CC-6***