

Greenfield Union School District
AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES

RESOLUTION NO. 1003

Protecting our staff and students from the health risks of agricultural pesticides by supporting a transition to less chemically-intensive agriculture and implementing buffer zones and notification systems for drift-prone pesticide applications around schools and neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, it is known that many of the chemicals used in local agricultural production, such as organophosphate and carbamate pesticides, are dangerous to children, adults and our environment¹, and a reduction in exposure to these is in the best interest of all; and

WHEREAS, even with legally required protections, application procedures, and buffer zones, agricultural pesticide use poses a significant health risk for Greenfield students and staff; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive public health study completed in 2014 found that one in four Monterey County children attend schools within a quarter-mile of pesticides of public health concern². Because of the rural nature of our school district, we have a high percentage of school children living and attending schools close to farming; and

WHEREAS, the above report also found that Greenfield High and Vista Verde Middle Schools ranked fourth and ninth in the entire state for the highest use of the neurodevelopmental toxin chlorpyrifos within a quarter-mile; and

WHEREAS, the UC Berkeley CHAMACOS (Center for the Health Assessment of Mothers and Children of Salinas) research team has been studying the impacts of use of organophosphate pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, in the Salinas Valley for over 18 years and has found correlations between prenatal and early childhood exposure decreased IQ, increased risk of attention problems and decreased lung function³; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has responded to statewide demands with a policy that creates quarter-mile buffer zones for half of the day⁴ and inadequately notifies the community of upcoming pesticide applications, failing to protect schools, workers, and communities from long-term pesticide exposure; and

WHEREAS, agricultural chemicals that negatively impact health, learning, and behavior contribute to increased costs for underfunded and understaffed schools, particularly special education programs; and

WHEREAS, agriculture is a multi-billion-dollar industry in Monterey County⁵ and employs many of our students, their families, as well as our graduates; and

¹ Pesticide Mapping Tool: Agricultural Pesticide Use in California. California Environmental Health Tracking Program, 2017. http://cehtp.org/page/pesticides/agricultural_pesticide_use_in_california

² Agricultural Pesticide Use Near Public Schools in California. California Environmental Health Tracking Program, 2014. <http://cehtp.org/download/pesticides/pesticides-schools-report-april2014>

³ CHAMACOS Study. UC Berkeley Center for Environmental Research and Children's Health, 2018. <https://cerch.berkeley.edu/research-programs/chamacos-study>

⁴ Addressing Pesticide Use Near Schools and Child Day Care Centers. Department of Pesticide Regulation, 2017. http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/school_notify/schoolsites_factsheet.pdf

⁵ Annual Crop Report. Monterey County Farm Bureau, 2016. <http://montereycfb.com/index.php?page=annual-crop-report>

WHEREAS, the Greenfield Union School District Board of Trustees supports the use of sustainable and environmentally sound agricultural practices to improve safety in our schools and our communities; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greenfield Union School District will strive to work with local and state pesticide regulators to:

- a) Increase the health-protective zones around schools where highly hazardous pesticides are not to be applied.
- b) Require at least one-week advance notification of highly hazardous agricultural pesticide use near schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenfield Union School District will begin to explore effective ways to share notification with our school communities such as auto dialer calls, parent notifications home to families, and bi- or trilingual signage on school campus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenfield Union School District urges our state and federal legislators to pass laws that financially assist farmers, growers and land owners in offsetting costs to transition their farms to organic-or harmless pesticides and chemicals, especially those farms which are within close proximity to schools and neighborhoods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Greenfield Union School District shall examine its own practices regarding the use of toxic chemicals on school grounds and will seek to reduce or discontinue the use of such harmful chemicals.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Greenfield Union School District will increase efforts in educating families about the hazards of pesticide exposure and engage students in creating a culture of critical thinking and advocacy around the issue of pesticides and other public health issues in and around our city.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Board of Greenfield Union School District at Greenfield, California, on this 8th day of **March, 2018** by the following vote:

AYES: _____
NOES: _____
ABSTAIN: _____
ABSENT: _____

I, **Sonia Heredia**, Clerk of the Board of Trustees of Greenfield Union School District, HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted by the Board of Trustees at a meeting thereof held on the 8th day of March, 2018 by the votes indicated above.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand this 8th day of March, 2018.

Clerk of the Board of Trustees