

*Salinas City Elementary School District*

REPORT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD  
MEETING  
DATE:

04/09/2018

School Site Plan  
Reference Page

DATE: April 4, 2018

FROM: Jerry Stratton, Assistant Supt, Business Services

SIGNATURE:

*Gerald J. Stratton*

Asst. Supt.: Bus Svc.

Asst. Supt.: Ed Serv.

Assistant Supt.: Human Resources

Superintendent:

*M. J. Matos*

**SUBJECT:** Agricultural Pesticides-ACTION

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Resolution 2017/18-17 Agricultural Pesticides

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval by the Board

**ANALYSIS:** This resolution provides the District's position regarding the use of agricultural pesticides. The District supports the use of sustainable and environmentally sound agricultural practices to improve safety in our schools and throughout our community. Significant professional, scientific research has provided data which confirms that use of toxic pesticides common in local use throughout California where children are exposed causes negative health issues which adversely impact learning, behavior and decreased IQ from the continued exposure.

This resolution calls for expanding safe zones around schools and requiring a one-week minimum advance notification for any highly hazardous pesticide use around schools.

Finally, this resolution calls for the state and federal legislation that will financially assist farmers in the transition to organic practices and non-hazardous pesticide use.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** None

**PROGRAM IMPACT:** None

ACTION - A4

**Salinas City Elementary School District**  
Salinas, CA 93901

**Resolution No. 2017/18-17**  
**Agricultural Pesticides**

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 environment<sup>1</sup>, 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 Salinas City Elementary 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 concern<sup>2</sup>. Because of the agricultural nature of some of our schools in our district, we have school children living and attending schools close to farming; 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 function<sup>3</sup>; 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 day<sup>4</sup> 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 County<sup>5</sup> and employs many of our students, their families, as well as our graduates; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas City Elementary 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 Salinas City Elementary 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 Salinas City Elementary 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 Salinas City Elementary 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 Salinas City Elementary 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.

ACTION - A4

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Elementary 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.

**The Board of Education takes the following action on this resolution:**

On the motion of \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_.

ROLL CALL

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

**The foregoing resolution is passed and adopted by the Governing Board of the Salinas City Elementary School District of Monterey County, California, at a regular meeting this 9th day of April 2018.**

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**Secretary to the Governing Board**  
*Martha L. Martinez*

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**President of the Governing Board**  
*Stephen Kim*

<sup>1</sup> Pesticide Mapping Tool: Agricultural Pesticide Use in California. California Environmental Health Tracking Program, 2017. [http://cehtp.org/page/pesticides/agricultural\\_pesticide\\_use\\_in\\_california](http://cehtp.org/page/pesticides/agricultural_pesticide_use_in_california)

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

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

<sup>4</sup> 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](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/school_notify/schoolsites_factsheet.pdf)

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