March 20, 2015

Brian R. Leahy, Director
California Department of Pesticide Regulation
1001 I Street, P.O. Box 4015
Sacramento, CA 95812-4015

Dear Mr. Leahy:

The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) has serious concerns about the Pesticide spraying and regulations impacting our schools, community, students, staff, and families. In 2014, the California Department of Public Health reported that Ventura County has the highest number of schools and students in the top five percent of schools with the most hazardous pesticides applied within a quarter mile of our schools.

The annual exposure rate of toxic air contaminant and carcinogen has serious health implications including cancer. Given these concerns, we respectfully request the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) sponsor a pesticide workshop and allow input from the community. We would like this to be held in Oxnard in the evening during May prior to the end of this school year. It is our understanding the DPR is currently scheduling these workshops and urge you to hold one in Oxnard for public comment. Our District is willing to host the public workshop at one of our Oxnard High Schools and we would help in communicating this event to our local community.

It is our priority for the OUHSD to protect the health of students, faculty and staff by taking the position that hazardous pesticides must be applied in a safe manner, within a ¼ mile radius of schools. It is essential that we receive more information about the danger of pesticides and the impact on our community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve Hall, Board President
Dr. Gabe Sounakian, Superintendent

CC: Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, SD 19
Assembly Member Das Williams, AD 37
Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin, AD 44
Ventura County Supervisor, John Zaragoza, 5th District
Ventura County Supervisor, Kathy Long, 3rd District
Deputy Executive Director, CAUSE, Maricela Morales
**Action Item**

**TO:** Board of Trustees and Superintendent

**PRESENTED BY:** Stephen Dickinson, Assistant Superintendent-Administrative Services

**BOARD AGENDA ITEM:** Consideration of Letter to the Department of Pesticide Regulations

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** March 25, 2015

**BACKGROUND:**

The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) has serious concerns about the Pesticide spraying and regulations impacting our schools, community, students, staff, and families.

**ADMINISTRATIVE DISCUSSION:**

The letter expresses concerns and requests the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) sponsor a pesticide workshop and allow input from the community to be held in Oxnard in the evening during May prior to the end of this school year.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of District Administration that the Board of Trustees direct the Superintendent to send a Letter to the Department of Pesticide Regulations as presented.