



Mendocino County Farm Bureau

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Affiliated with the California Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

May 13, 2019

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1010
Ukiah, CA 95482

Via Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org

RE: May 14, 2019 Agenda Item 6a

Dear Chair Brown and Supervisors,

Mendocino County Farm Bureau (MCFB) is a non-governmental, non-profit, voluntary membership, advocacy group whose purpose is to protect and promote agricultural interests throughout the county and to find solutions to the problems facing agricultural businesses and the rural community. MCFB appreciates the opportunity to offer comment on agenda item 6a) *Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Agriculture Department to Collect and Publish Pesticide Application Details, Including Chemical Agent, Quantity, and Assessor's Parcel Number.*

Currently, Mendocino County uses the Cal AgPermits online reporting system. Cal AgPermits is a statewide permitting and pesticide use reporting system currently being used throughout all counties in California. The program is sponsored by the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) in concert with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR). The Cal AgPermits system includes features for businesses and individuals who apply pesticides in California to complete the required Pesticide Use Reports, including Notices of Intent to apply restricted materials.

Pesticide use reports are already required to be submitted to the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture on a monthly basis. APNs are not currently submitted, however addresses and USGS coordinates are. The data is then submitted to CDPR and is aggregated on an annual basis which is available to the public. The data has a number of search parameters to narrow the search, including by county or zip code.

Since there was no background information provided in the agenda summary for this item, MCFB is unclear as to the reason for looking into expanding upon the current process for pesticide use reporting. The primary concerns are that applicators will have to submit information into duplicative systems and that the Mendocino County Department of Agriculture will be further impacted with the amount of staff resources that will be required to be committed to data management.

Since applicators are already submitting the majority of the information requested in this agenda item proposal and the additional data/website management requirements will impact the staff and budget at the Mendocino County Agricultural Department, MCFB is opposed to the proposed action included with agenda item 6a.

MCFB appreciated the consideration of the comments above during the discussion at the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow. If there are any questions related to the position of MCFB on this item, please feel free to contact the MCFB office.

Sincerely,

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President