

August 4, 2025

The Honorable Nancy Ogren, Chair
Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors
1312 Fairlane Road, Suite 1
Yreka, California 96097

SUBJECT: Request for a State of Emergency – Illegal Pesticides

Dear Supervisor Ogren:

This letter is in response to Siskiyou County's (the County) July 1, 2025, request for a State of Emergency (SOE) proclamation due to illegal pesticide use within the County.

The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) recognizes the seriousness of these concerns. Cal OES has coordinated closely with partners at the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) on multiple state actions in support of the County, including operations in 2023 and 2024 that seized or prevented tens of thousands of pounds of unlicensed cannabis from entering the illicit market. The state remains committed to continued support for Siskiyou in actions that protect the regulated marketplace and enhance the County's enforcement mission.

Specific to the pesticide issue, Cal OES immediately engaged with the County to understand its needs, particularly in the area of soil sampling. Cal OES subsequently connected the County with technical expertise and assistance from state and federal agencies, including the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

At this time, the conditions in Siskiyou County do not meet requirements for a State of Emergency as defined by the California Emergency Services Act.



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Cal OES remains engaged with the County on this issue to facilitate further technical assistance as needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Ward". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Nancy" and last name "Ward" clearly distinguishable.

NANCY WARD
Director

c: Bryan Schenone, Director, Siskiyou County Office of Emergency Services