

April 19, 2023

TO: Watsonville City Council

FROM: Campaign for Organic & Regenerative Agriculture (CORA)

RE: Background Information for Pesticide Study Session

SUMMARY

CORA thanks the Watsonville City Council for the opportunity to present at its study session on pesticide use around the City. Santa Cruz County is a leader in organic agriculture, yet there is still enormous use of toxic pesticides near our homes and schools in Watsonville. Below is some pertinent information and links to other documents that the Council may find useful in studying this issue and the impacts of pesticide use on the residents of Watsonville and the benefits of organic agriculture.

PRESS CLIPS

Interview with Lakeside Organics Founder Dick Peixoto

<https://www.andnowuknow.com/buyside-news/lakeside-organic-gardens-owner-dick-peixoto-discusses-founding-story/chandler-james/73806>

Good Times on CORA and agriculture

<https://www.goodtimes.sc/how-pesticides-are-impacting-the-pajaro-valley/>

Lookout

<https://lookout.co/santacruz/civic-life/story/2022-10-03/driscolls-berries-organic-pesticides-watsonville-reiter-farming>

<https://lookout.co/santacruz/civic-life/story/2022-12-09/lookout-update-pesticide-activists-meet-with-driscolls-leaders-say-organic-transition-details-remain-unclear>

STUDIES

Santa Cruz County Annual Crop Reports

<https://www.agdept.com/AgriculturalCommissioner/AnnualCropandLivestockReports.aspx>

UC Berkeley CHAMACOS Study on Women and Children

<https://cerch.berkeley.edu/research-programs/chamacos-study>

UCLA Study on Pesticides and Cancer

<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/pesticides-increase-retinoblastoma-cancer-risk-children>

<https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/california-officials-falling-short-evaluating-agricultural-pesticides>

Rodale Institute on Organic Agriculture & Climate Change

<https://rodaleinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/rodale-white-paper.pdf>