

June 17, 2014

To: Cost Accounting Committee

From: Shirley Shelangoski, Parents for a Safer Environment

I wish to thank the Cost Committee in delving into costs in order to constantly investigate all alternatives to the more risky chemicals. Please include a marker of some type for the costs to public health, wildlife, and the environment, even though a specific dollar figure cannot be established. A marker noting a concern at least reminds us that there are unknown costs that can be tremendous when people, wildlife, and the environment become ill. I'd like to submit 5 peer-reviewed studies on glyphosate effects of pesticide on children and an article on glyphosate from the Food Network via the Environmental working group.

Parents for a Safer Environment is very concerned that the Grounds Department is contracting out a service to use rodenticides in the parks. We would like to get estimates from several trappers that are highly recommended such as James Schmerker of Animal Damage Control and Steve Hebert of SWAT and to find out what it would cost them to trap burrowing rodents by setting traps after parks close and checking on them before 8AM the next day before parks open. Steve only charges per head, and James charges about \$120 per visit for residents but may provide a break for a large county contract.

In regards to the April 15, 2014 Cost Accounting Meeting Minutes,

Under #4, 3rd bullet point, it is stated that SureGuard is being used as a pre-emergent. SureGuard with the active ingredient flumioxizin has been registered by the CA DPR only since 2004, for 10 years. This is relatively a very short amount of time and the studies done on this product have been for acute toxicity.

Until sufficient amount of chronic studies have been collected for this product, Parents for a Safer Environment ask that the County refrain from using this pre-emergent. Sheet mulching, solarization, and mulching are recommended to prevent weeds from emerging.

The questions I have are the following:

- 1) Where exactly are SureGuard and RoundUp being used and for which target pests?
- 2) What least toxic alternative demonstrations have been conducted? Let us discuss these demonstrations in this committee.
- 3) If only chemical controls are feasible, have least toxic chemicals being used by other agencies tried?
- 4) In the meanwhile, please provide everyone an electronic copy of the recorded and tracked results of the demonstrations.

5) The Summit Center was treated with pre-emergents but could use solarization, the use of plastic sheets to heat and kill seed banks and weeds for future use.

Under #4, bullet item # 4, it states that Grounds Department provides services for clients and is constrained under client's budgets.

I would ask if the Grounds Department has ever proposed to clients to go with least toxic alternatives and provide the reasons for doing this, which is to lower the risk to public health and the environment? The County can play an important role in providing guidance for using least toxic weed control methods instead of using the cheapest method that most any uninformed client would request of its service provider.

The Berkeley Unified School District decided that they did not want to risk using RoundUp , pre-emergents and Broadleaf weed killers on their campuses. Their staff have been using Axxe. A post-emergent herbicide product made of fatty acids when a chemical is really necessary. Axxe and similar products have replaced RoundUp at many pro-active public agencies who wish to prioritize protecting public health and the environment.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my questions and requests in writing.