

Dear Members of the Contra Costa County Weed Committee:

My name is Christine Steck and I am a resident of Moraga and a newer Steering Committee member of Parents for a Safer Environment. I learned that Contra Costa County staff applies over 3,000 lbs of RoundUp a year. It was enough for me to cancel my meeting and come here today to share my serious worries about this situation.

Public agencies, professional and home gardeners alike have become so dependent on this seemingly quick answer to weed control, that just the active ingredient of RoundUp, glyphosate, is being applied at the rate of over 185 million pounds in 2007 in the United States according to a recent US EPA document. Are our county's public servants willing to take a leadership role to be look to safer and non-chemical options that are sustainable?

Members of Parents for a Safer Environment attended the "Marches against Monsanto" in Oakland on May 23rd. We joined residents of 428 cities in 38 countries all over the world, including Bay Area cities, to express outrage over Monsanto's unethical means of promoting GMO products, Roundup and profiting at the expense of the community's and environment's health.

What's even more concerning is that the World Health Organization recently re-classified glyphosate as a "probable carcinogen." There is ample evidence of it causing cancer in animals and more limited emerging evidence in hard to finance and conduct human studies. Glyphosate was found in the urine in 45 percent of Europeans and experts believe it will be the same in the US or even worse.

Glyphosate is running off into our rivers, lakes and oceans and ending up in the fish and meat we eat. Currently, glyphosate is not being monitored by regulatory agencies however this may change in the future after US EPA reassesses its classification in the future.

We must act now for our sake and the sake of our children and our planet's future.

Christine Steck of Moraga
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