

Dear Members of the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory 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 along with other very toxic pesticides where people and the environment are likely exposed.

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. Is our county's public servants willing to take a leadership role to 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 human carcinogen." There is ample evidence of it causing cancer in animals and human tissue culture studies. There are limited emerging human studies and it appears that it's just a matter of time when glyphosate will be understood as causing much harm to people's health. 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 if this type of monitoring is ever conducted because we are the largest users in the world.

Glyphosate is running off into our rivers, lakes and oceans and ending up in our food. Beside this it is a well known fact that weeds are getting resistant to the chemicals used and so more toxic pesticides are constantly being rotated in to meet the challenge and beat mother nature. 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 and follow the precautionary principle by using a safer method for weed control rather than depending on pesticides such as RoundUp.

Christine Steck of Moraga  
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