

July 20, 2016 Public Comment

Corrections in July 20, 2016 Agenda Packet, Meeting Minutes from the May 18th IPM Advisory Committee meeting.

Submitted by Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment (PASE)

1. Please correct as follows in order to clarify my public comment from the May 18th meeting when I introduced PASE's graphs showing the regression trend graphs of county's pesticide usage.

Please replace : "...she had created for County pesticide use and asked why there was a 90% increase (in her opinion) in pesticide use."

to read:

" PASE utilized the county's own data provided in its spreadsheet titled "2000-2015 CCCPest Use Chart" to create the regression graphs from FY 07-08 to FY 14-15. The most disturbing findings were with the Department of Agriculture and Grounds Programs and the community wishes to know why there is such a high usage trend:

1. The trend of **CCC Ag Dept's usage** of the active ingredient diphacinone rodenticides in the last 5 years increased by 15% in open space, with a 90% increase between the last 2 years. Other Marin, Santa Clara and S.F. counties do not use rodenticides in open space in order to prevent secondary poisoning and only use traps. Trapping costs about 50% more according to a Ventura County Ag Dept report, or approximately \$80,000 more for CCC. Many counties have chosen to pay a bit more to protect wildlife and non-target species including pets.

The trend is similar with the Ag Dept's use of *grain bait* that is mixed in with diphacinone and scattered above ground onto thousands of acres at a rate of over 27,000 lbs last year, reflecting an average increase of 9% in the past 5 years and a 93% increase of bait usage in the last 2 years.

2. The Public Works Department's Grounds Program in the last 5 years increased their herbicide usage by 73%. CCC Grounds program used 700% more herbicides than the counties of Santa Clara and Marin combined last year (600 lbs vs 100 lbs) even when Santa Clara county has at least 50% more grounds requiring management. Why does our county use so much more herbicides than our neighboring counties?
3. The Public Works Department's Right of Ways Program showed an average decrease of 10% herbicide usage in the past 5 years. However, we used 300% more herbicides last year at the rate of 9,000 lbs than the combined usage by Santa Clara and Marin counties combined last year (<2,300 lbs and

< 50 lbs respectively), even though Santa Clara county alone has more area to maintain than CCC. With evidence that grazing causes no more damage and can be less expensive in the short term and also of less risk to public health and the environment, we need to expedite moving away from herbicide usage and utilize more grazing.

4. The Public Works Special District program is using about 50 lbs of rodenticides in the parks. This may not seem like much compared to over 9,000 lbs of pesticides applied by county staff last year. However, rodenticides are very potent and what is more significant is the capacity to kill large numbers of animals by secondary poisoning. The counties of Santa Clara, S.F. and Marin never use rodenticides in parks.

The community is appreciative of the Decision Making Subcommittee volunteers who are working with staff to try and see if there are less risky methods for controlling burrowing rodents in the parks.

5. The Public Works Department's Facilities program manages pests in buildings and has been doing great until last year when insecticide usage inside building(s) went up past 8 lbs. This was alarming and it has not been made clear why the use of a Bad Actor pesticide was necessary.

I ask the IPM Advisory Committee to consider these trends in pesticide usage and ask the questions of where it makes sense to consider focus for reduction with less risky methods.

Thank you for your attention to our findings. Your recommendations can impact the well-being of generations of children, pets, wildlife and the environment. Your participation is not taken for granted by the community.

Susan JunFish

July 20, 2016

Public Comment - Question for the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee Coordinator, Ms Drlik.

Dear Ms Drlik, Please provide answers to my questions in writing and including these questions and answers in the meeting minutes.

1. Has the county updated its practices in order to be in compliance with the Healthy Schools Act amendment that went into effect this year? This law applies to all childcare facilities and K-12 public schools.

2. I would like to know if each of the county's childcare facilities, or Head Start Programs, have submitted monthly pesticide use reports, started mandatory IPM training and have a written IPM program document on file at each facility per the Healthy Schools Act?

3. Last year the county applied a very toxic insecticide inside a building for flea control (Precor). How could you assure me that a least toxic method for flea control will be used if an outbreak was to occur at a county childcare facility?

I have submitted a factsheet on least toxic herbicides that is allowable in the state of New York, after they passed stronger laws for schools that may be helpful to you.

Regards,

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Parents for a Safer Environment