

November 16, 2016

To: IPM Advisory Committee and county staff members

From: Public Comment from Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

Good Morning Committee members. I called the Santa Clara County IPM Manager, Naresh Duggal yesterday and he informed me that their 2015 Annual Report will be released next month and gave an o.k. for me to share the statistics from the report that he provided by phone.

**1) Their Parks and Recreation Program addresses all invasive weeds in open space and burrowing rodents unlike our county, where the Dept of Ag addresses pests in open space.**

- They manage 52,091 acres of parklands and open space with 99.9% being pesticide-free. Only 50 acres were treated for invasive weeds last year.
- Santa Clara County's Dept of Ag addresses weed control on private lands only and uses primarily discing and truck tilling.
- **No rodenticides are used in Santa Clara County open space per the Board of Supervisor instructions. In 2015, they trapped 1,204 ground squirrels and 532 gophers working in coordination with a contractor.**
- **Trapping allows for tracking of rodents caught and assessment of effectiveness.**
- Nearly all trapping occurs between the hours of 7:30 AM and 11AM depending on the temperature and usually within an hour of the traps being set. Animals are removed promptly and euthanized by the contractor.
- Animal Damage Management has replaced their former contractor who has moved out of state in the past year. They pick-up the live catches and euthanize rodents at their facility. Steve Aguiller in Morgan Hill. 408-234-4602. 1-800-292-9845. They have offices throughout California.
- They occasionally used CO2 asphyxiation in highly visible locations where the public may complain seeing trapped squirrels.
- 8.3 acres of turf were converted to xeriscapes in 2015, requiring minimal water.

**2) Santa Clara has 650 miles of roadsides to manage, whereas CCC has 660 miles, almost the same.**

- 12% of roadsides are managed chemically. 911 acres are managed non-chemically, and 250 acres are treated chemically, or 12%.
- 256 gallons of Roundup and 12 gallons of Milestone was used. Contra Costa on the other hand is using
- There has been an 88% reduction of pesticide usage from 2005 to 2016, from 2,164 acres treated to 260 acres treated in 2016.
- Herbicides along roadsides are used only where there are steep cut areas near guardrails with poor visibility and access for even truck mounted mowers and impracticality for grazing.

**3) Flood Control District.**

- Santa Clara County Water District manages 800 miles of flood control district and stopped using rodenticides about 4-5 years ago according to Zak Mosley and Joe Chavez. Only trapping is used to control ground squirrels in order to protect wildlife and the water.
- Contra Costa county manages 150 miles of flood control district and uses rodenticides, above ground and broadcast applied.
- Zak Mosley: is the staff in charge of weed control along the flood control district. He said Santa Clara County does not broadcast apply herbicides from trucks but only uses spot spraying only when necessary. [mousli@valleywater.org](mailto:mousli@valleywater.org); 408-630-3862
- Joe Chavez is the stream management staff who manages the rodent control program without rodenticides: 408-630-2276