

March 16, 2017

Good Morning Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee,

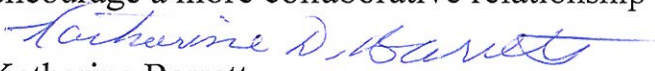
My name is Kathy Barrett and I'm a resident of Orinda, on the Board of Directors for Wagner's Ranch Nature Area serving the Orinda Unified School District and have been on the Parents for a Safer Environment Steering Committee for the past 6 years.

I'm here this morning to hear about San Francisco County's IPM program and have Dr. Geiger be able to field some questions for us. In addition, I am here to express my concern that the county has not followed up on public comments and requests provided by community members who attend these IPM Advisory Committee meetings. We realize that if an item is not on the agenda, the Committee need not provide a response at the moment, but it would be helpful to the community if the concerns are addressed so that issues can possibly be resolved and worked out.

My case in point is when Elizabeth Salmon-Omski, who has been actively involved in our City of Walnut Creek project provided a public comment at the November, 2016 county IPM meeting that has yet to get a response. She spoke on rodenticides, which is an issue that is very important to me as well. Why does Contra Costa County continue to apply rodenticides in thousands of acres of public grounds or what we had referred to as open space? She made an important point that death is not the only marker for secondary poisoning to our wildlife. Once poisoned, research shows that they are not capable of functioning normally nor fending off natural parasites; this includes bobcats and honey bees. Their immune systems are stressed and they succumb to a slow death by other stressors. We're seeing this trend in many organisms including humans. Autoimmune diseases are becoming too common in our community.

Elizabeth also spoke of glue-boards and the community's expectation that this deplorable practice be stopped. The Contra Costa County's Humane Society has agreed to conduct a campaign with Parents for a Safer Environment to have their members and our 1,250 members to petition the county to stop this practice.

Our Parents for a Safer Environment Committee would like to have a meeting with Ms. Drlik and the management of Contra Costa County to promote more transparency and encourage a more collaborative relationship with the IPM Committee.

  
Katharine Barrett,

Orinda Resident & Steering Committee member of PASE, [kdbarrett08@gmail.com](mailto:kdbarrett08@gmail.com)

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Good Morning, my name is Elizabeth Hudson and I'm a new volunteer with Parents for a Safer Environment. I am also an unincorporated Walnut Creek resident.

My understanding is that the County IPM Advisory Committee has a new Outreach Subcommittee. I hope this outreach subcommittee will reach out to other public agencies and pesticide treatment professionals. Please do more than just appease the community's concerns about the pesticides used at city parks, school districts, and county grounds.

I was recently involved in executing the Parents for a Safer Environment's program to train public agency staff and their contractors on ways to maintain their turf organically without the use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides. We had 89 registrants and the speakers received a lot of positive feedback. It was an eye opener for many attendees and I believe several expressed interest in helping Susan work for safer playgrounds and fields, getting rid of chemicals like 2,4-D. Chip Osborne, the nationally sought after trainer who specializes in organic turf maintenance, did an excellent job of providing information as to why organic maintenance works so well in controlling weeds and resisting insect infestations. For example, he educated attendees about beneficial microbes in the soil that keep the soil aerated and help prevent compaction. He provided numerous examples of depleted turf that had been transformed into beautiful turf using the systems approach to maintenance without synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

I hope that the County Outreach Committee will consider putting on training like this in the future for other specific issues, whether for more sustainable termite control or for gopher control. I would think that Parents for a Safer Environment and other groups would be happy to help and co-sponsor such training. The Acalanes Union High School District co-sponsored the training with Chip Osborne, providing the photocopying of handouts that went into folders, advertising the event to other school districts and providing the facility for the event. I hope the county will both reduce it's own use of harmful pesticides as well as collaborate with the community to address the very real health risks posed by some of the current chemicals being used.

Thank you,

Elizabeth Hudson  
Walnut Creek