

March 1st, 2018

Dear Members of the CCC IPM Committee,

My name is Karolina Park and I am a Martinez resident working as a sustainable landscape designer & horticulturalist and I also work on the Steering Committee of Parents for a Safer Environment (PASE).

Over the last weekend, while I was driving along Pacheco Blvd near Pacheco, where the road crosses over Grayson Creek, I noticed that the banks of the creek had been sprayed with herbicide and are now showing signs of the typical orange discoloration indicative of an herbicide application. I turned to the same creek-side location on February 27th, in order to document the evidence of herbicide spraying, and discovered that one side of the creek is actually a city park.

I am presenting you a set of photos that I took on February 27th 2018 of an area along the Grayson Creek in Pacheco showing the signs of pesticide application, yet with no signage or posting to warn people. This access road is also a park that the public uses for recreation. The park is called Hayden Park on Google Maps, however the sign at the site says Pacheco Creek Park. This park is directly adjacent to the creek where the treatments were made and the sprayed area appears to be part of the park. There are no keep out or warning signs anywhere. Children playing in the park can easily access this herbicide-treated area and it is likely that they would come into contact with the treated area if they did.

I would like to know who is responsible for maintaining and spraying Hayden or Pacheco Creek Park? What day and time were the treatments made prior to February 27th, and what products and how much was applied along this park area?

It is very upsetting to see these large areas treated with pesticide in such close proximity to where residents also spend time with their children and pets. Why is grazing not utilized in this area? Grazing would negate the need to apply toxic herbicides so near to a park where children may be exposed to such chemicals, not to mention the likely contamination of a waterway?

There is no time to waste here, since each day that goes by with no change means another day that children, waterways and the environment are exposed to these over-used toxic herbicides. Please assure me that you will do the right thing by finding the most sustainable solutions to weed control along public parks and Rights of Way, and that you will recommend that the county pilot a steam weeding trial since it has been reported by the City of Irvine and others to be effective for Rights of Way. On November 2017, I provided the Committee with the contact info for the steam-weeding.

Thank you,
Karolina Park

Martinez Resident
Parents for a Safer Environment
Steering Committee member
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"Partnering with Communities to Prevent Exposure to Pesticides and other Toxicants in Order to Protect Children, Pets, Wildlife, and the Environment."





