



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA**

625 WEST HILLCREST DRIVE, THOUSAND OAKS, CA 91360

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LINDA PARKS
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
(805) 214-2510
FAX: (805) 480-0585
E-mail: Linda.Parks@ventura.org

April 23, 2019

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 South Victoria Street
Ventura, CA 93009

Board of Directors
Ventura County Watershed Protection District
800 South Victoria Street
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Recommendation of Supervisor Linda Parks to Examine the Use of Glyphosate for Vegetation Management in Ventura County and the Watershed Protection District

Recommendation:

I request the Board of Supervisors / Board of Directors examine the use of glyphosate for vegetation management in Ventura County and direct the General Services Agency, in conjunction with the Public Works Agency, Harbor Department, Department of Airports, Watershed Protection District, and the Agricultural Commissioner to:

1. Provide an assessment of the extent to which glyphosate-based herbicides are used for vegetation management purposes,
2. Identify protocols that lead to the use of glyphosate as an abatement agent,
3. Explore alternatives to the use of glyphosate and identify recommended strategies, that do not involve its use,
4. Identify Best Practices on what methods other jurisdictions use, and
5. Report back to the Board on findings and alternatives within 60 days.

Discussion:

Glyphosate is the most commonly used herbicide and an effective weed abatement method used by both public and private entities. The County Agricultural Commissioner operates the Pesticide Use Enforcement Program (PUE) to regulate the use of herbicides and pesticides in the County, as outlined by the Department of Pesticide Regulation. Glyphosate use must comply with all Federal and State regulations. Despite established protocols and best management practices for glyphosate use, the herbicide

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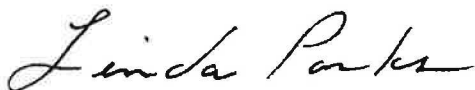
is still found to be harmful to the environment, wildlife, and people. In 2015 the World Health Organization classified glyphosate as a probable human carcinogen. On July 7, 2017 glyphosate was added to the Proposition 65 list as known to the State of California to cause cancer and a recent multimillion-dollar lawsuit prevailed linking glyphosate-based weed killer to cancer.

More than 50 U.S. cities and counties have banned the chemical. In California, Los Angeles, Marin, and Alameda Counties have a moratorium on glyphosate-based herbicide use; have banned the use of glyphosate on all county-maintained parks, landscaping, playgrounds, walkways and parking areas; and are reviewing their chemical spraying practices respectively. A further 31 California cities have implemented glyphosate-based herbicide reduction strategies, ranging from pest management programs to passing municipal ordinances banning its use.

County residents and workers who live near active application sites and/or are herbicide applicators have shared deep concern about the risk that the use of glyphosate-based herbicides has on their health. In the interest of public health, the information we will receive back from our departments will allow the Board to better understand the extent of glyphosate use in the county, and identify alternative methods for weed abatement and vegetation management at county facilities and waterways.

This Board letter has been reviewed by the County Executive Office, County Counsel, General Services Agency, Public Works Agency, Watershed Protection District, Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Airports, and Harbor Department. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions please contact me at (805) 214-2510.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Parks".

Linda Parks
Supervisor, District 2