

Date 10/3/2023

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors 400 County Center, 1st Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: San Mateo County Pesticide Use Documentation, Transparency, and Oversight Policy

Dear Honorable Members of the San Mateo Board of Supervisors:

As citizens living next to and using trails at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area GGNRA and San Mateo County Parks for recreation, we request the following transparency and potential implementations of Pesticide use to create awareness for public and pet health concerns. Such that the citizens can adjust their activity accordingly regarding exposure of themselves and loved ones especially if they have health conditions such as suppressed immunity or asthma.

We hope the Board of Supervisors can write a letter or speak in person with the GGNRA since your constituents have been affected by their spraying of glyphosate and the leaving of fuel load in the WUI. We have discovered it is the practice of both GGNRA and San Mateo County Parks to spray certain invasive plants regularly and leave them to degrade, yet they become fuel load.

First and foremost, this is a public health concern but it affects fuel load, watershed, the health of our very sensitive ecosystems that are all connected via land and water, and climate resilience since these things are all connected.

NOTIFICATION:

1. Specific and advanced public posted notice (at least 1 week before and 1 week after) of Pesticide application.
2. Posting should be consistent, factual, onsite, and timely at the site of Pesticide application not just at the trailhead and not posted when not happening in the timeline above.
3. Info on posting:
 - a. Dates of application and keep dates updated if they change
 - b. List chemical name, brand name of pesticide, EPA registration number
 - c. Description of 'treatment' or application (spray or paint)
 - d. Name of target pest/plant
 - e. Continue to provide reasoning, but add for specific plant/chemical (public education)
 - f. Continue to post on the website for anyone or group field trips that need to be planned in advance.

TRANSPARENCY:

1. The public should have easy website access to Integrated Pest Management (IPM) records (separating out County Parks and private lands), policies, specific procedures, and an annual report.

- a. Records should continue to include a monthly report of Pesticide Use for San Mateo County, but records should be distinguishable so that one can find records with sum totals of use just for San Mateo County Parks which would include all SMC Parks contractor use.
- b. All contractor names should be listed on the IPM section of the website, since one must know names of contractors in order to request records.
- c. Records should include date of application, name of pesticide applied & EPA registration number, target pest/plant, type of application (ex: spray or paint), quantity used, dilution used, approximate square footage where work was done, and location applied using GPS coordinates on google maps. Location data is currently collected by contractors but not available to public records.
- d. All IPM Policies and Procedures should be posted on the SMC Parks website along with the annual reports.
- e. The annual report should account for the total sum of all Pesticides used for the year, broken down into County Parks use and the rest of San Mateo County use. It should show and explain percent changes in use of pesticides from previous years.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

1. Implementation of an IPM Oversight Committee or Task Force for San Mateo County which will separate the oversight of the County from the County Parks. The oversight committee will meet quarterly to review IPM records, policy, annual reports when applicable and work on ways the county can gradually reduce application of poisons on the land.
2. Types of individuals that should be involved include concerned community members, technical experts (grazing, soil, ecosystem restoration, IPM, etc.), local advocates opposed to chemical use on the land, elected official (s), and staff. Persons who should NOT be on the committee are anyone who has a financial stake in the outcomes of committee decisions or other motivations to continue pesticide use as usual (e.g. anyone including staff receiving cash back rewards from chemical suppliers, chemical suppliers, chemical industry employees, industry based 'environmental' organizations that are motivated to continue pesticide use as a 'tool'...etc.)

SMC RESOLUTION: #071857 from the minutes of the March 13, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting which documents the vote.

1. It specifies no broadcast spraying on County highways or County Parks. Why is there still spraying in parks?
2. We would like documentation of this resolution and easy website access.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES:

1. **Consider what other counties and cities are doing** to reduce or eliminate pesticide use in parks and open space such as organic non-selective herbicides and targeted grazing. (See attachment for a few examples.)

2. **Organize Volunteers:** We request San Mateo County, SMC County Parks, and the GGNRA utilize and **organize volunteers** for manual labor and/or grazing goats instead of applying Pesticides where possible. An example is an 'Adopt A Park/Trail' program as done in Burbank. Youth groups take ownership of a park and its non-chemical management. Burbank even provides awards to the most weeds (by weight) "properly" removed. **And consider measure K for these climate resilience and fire resilience management methods.**

Respectfully,

Melinda MacNaughton

On Behalf of concerned citizens of the Coastside Community and El Granada Advocates

cc: San Mateo County Executive Officer/Clerk of the Board Mike Callagy, San Mateo County Attorney John Nibbelin
San Mateo County Assitant Attorney David A Silberman

A few Resources for County Review:

Example Annual Reports:

Santa Clara County

<https://ipm.sccgov.org/sites/g/files/exjcpb1006/files/documents/FY%202021-22%20IPM%20Program%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

Sonoma County

<https://connect.xfinity.com/appsuite/#!/&app=io.ox/mail&folder=default0//wj%7Co4Znuv>

Marin

https://www.parks.marincounty.org/-/media/files/sites/marin-county-parks/projects-and-plans/ipm/annual-reports/ipm_ar_2022.pdf?la=en

Clear IPM Website Example:

Santa Clara County

<https://ipm.sccgov.org/program-implementation/stakeholder-outreach>

Marin County Parks

<https://www.parks.marincounty.org/projectsplans/ipm>

Example Resolution:

Humboldt County Board of Supervisors Resolution Opposing Spraying of Herbicides

https://www.healthyhighways.org/files/ugd/6612ef_a635e33fc2e847b184942e775cf5c32b.pdf