



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

### AGENDA ITEM

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
2020 FEB 13 AM 11:37  
CLERK OF THE BOARD  
OF SUPERVISORS

03

**DATE:** February 26, 2020

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

#### **SUBJECT**

**PROHIBITING THE COUNTY'S USE OF GLYPHOSATE-BASED PRODUCTS  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

#### **OVERVIEW**

In January, County staff provided a memo (Attachment A) to the Board of Supervisors describing current pesticide use protocol on County owned and leased property. Since 1993, the County has been governed by Board Policy F-45 (Pesticide Use Reduction), which articulates the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. The IPM Program allows for chemical pesticide use after non-chemical options have been exhausted. One of the chemical pesticides allowed under the IPM Program includes glyphosate, the active chemical in Bayer's Roundup herbicide.

Glyphosate is a registered carcinogen according to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Its potential impacts on public health and cancer risks such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma have been under increased scrutiny. Because of its public health impact, cities, counties, states and countries are moving to ban or reduce the use of this toxin. Million-dollar settlements have recently been awarded to plaintiffs who developed cancer after exposure to Roundup.

Revisions to the IPM Program are warranted to protect County staff, visitors and residents from the risk of glyphosate exposure and other unintended public health impacts from pesticides. Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to amend the County's IPM Program to prohibit the use of glyphosate-based products and to prioritize the use of organic alternatives on all County owned and maintained property, and return to the Board in 120 days with the revised policy for adoption.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **SUPERVISOR DIANNE JACOB AND SUPERVISOR NATHAN FLETCHER**

1. Find in accordance with Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(5) that today's actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

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2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to amend the County of San Diego's Integrated Pest Management Program through revisions to Board Policy F-45, to prohibit the use of glyphosate-based products and to prioritize the use of organic alternatives on all County owned and maintained property, and return to the Board in 120 days with the revised policy for adoption.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Not assessed at this time.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

Glyphosate is a registered carcinogen according to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and is the active chemical in Bayer's Roundup herbicide. Its potential impacts on public health and cancer risks such as non-Hodgkin's lymphoma have been under increased scrutiny. Because of its public health impact, cities, counties, states and countries are moving to ban or reduce the use of this toxin. Million-dollar settlements have recently been awarded to plaintiffs who developed cancer after exposure to Roundup.

Last year, the first lawsuit connecting Roundup with cancer risk went to trial and was settled for \$289.2 million. A second lawsuit was settled for more than \$2.5 billion. A third lawsuit was settled for \$80 million. These landmark rulings reflect growing scientific evidence and shifting attitudes around continued use of the toxic chemical. Thousands of cases are still pending, and the number of lawsuits continues to grow.

Continued use of known carcinogens represents a threat to public health. The California cities of Irvine, Encinitas, Carlsbad, Napa and Sonoma have enacted policies to restrict or ban the use of glyphosate. The County of Los Angeles and the University of California system have also implemented restrictions. This list continues to grow.

The County of San Diego uses glyphosate on our parks, streets and property, and is permitted under the County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program. The IPM and current pesticide use on County owned and leased property was detailed in a January 14, 2020 memo from the Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures. While the IPM urges County staff to consider the use of non-chemical controls before using chemical pesticides, glyphosate and other pesticides with potentially unknown public health impacts are still allowed.

Four County departments use glyphosate: Agriculture, Weights & Measurements (AWM), Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), Department of General Services (DGS), and Department of Public Works (DPW). AWM uses about 40 gallons over more than 4,000 of acres managed on behalf of County departments and other properties. DPR uses about 1.2 gallons per month on an average of three parks for spot spraying and habitat preservation. DPW uses less than

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2 gallons per year, which is commonly applied to avoid weed blockage in sewer lines. The total gallons of glyphosate used is a relatively small percentage of the County's overall pesticide use (Attachment A).

Given the scientific evidence, its status as a carcinogen by the State, and the growing financial liability, San Diego County should not allow the use of glyphosate.

Revisions to the IPM Program are warranted to protect County staff, visitors and residents from the risk of glyphosate exposure and other unintended public health impacts from pesticides. This action would mitigate risk from glyphosate use and other unintended public health impacts from other pesticides. The County cannot restrict use of glyphosate by private citizens or businesses, and today's action only extends to use on County owned and maintained property.

Today's action directs the Chief Administrative Officer to amend the County's IPM Program to prohibit the use of glyphosate-based products and to prioritize the use of organic alternatives on all County owned and maintained property, and return to the Board in 120 days with the revised policy for adoption.

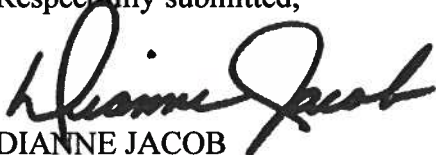
**ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

The direction to staff to revise the IPM program and staff policies to prohibit glyphosate uses is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15378(b)(5) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that today's actions may have a significant effect on the environment. The purpose of this action is to direct staff to evaluate revisions to County glyphosate uses, prepare any necessary administrative changes and perform any necessary corresponding environmental review. The direction received today will not result in any direct or indirect changes to the environment, and any future Board actions as a result will be further reviewed under CEQA.

**LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN**

Today's action aligns with the County's Strategic Initiative of 'Building Better Health,' to ensure every resident can make positive, healthy choices that reduce preventable deaths. It also aligns with 'Sustainable Environments/ Thriving' to cultivate a natural environment for residents, visitors and future generations to enjoy.

Respectfully submitted,



DIANNE JACOB  
Supervisor, Second District



NATHAN FLETCHER  
Supervisor, Fourth District

**ATTACHMENT**

Attachment A. January 14, 2020 – Response to Public Comment Received Regarding Pesticide Use on County of San Diego Property

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**       Yes     No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
 Yes     No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**

N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**

Policy F-45, Pesticide Use Reduction

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**

N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**

N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**

N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** District 2 and 4, County Board of Supervisors

**OTHER CONCURRENCE(S):**    N/A

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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