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COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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April 26, 2000

AGENDA: May 2, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Pesticide Policy

Dear Members of the Board:

On January 25, 2000, your Board considered adopting a County Pesticide Policy similar to one previously adopted by the City of Santa Cruz. At that time, you directed the County Administrative Officer to analyze the proposed policy in accordance with affected County departments, interested members of the public, and a representative of the Farm Bureau. The purpose of this letter is to provide your Board with a status report on our efforts to date.

My staff and I have met with five members of the Pesticide Action Coalition to discuss their goals for a pesticide policy in the County. They identified two goals: that the County reduce or eliminate the use of synthetic pesticides and that the County conduct public education on reducing pesticides. The members of the coalition explained their concerns regarding the use of pesticides and provided us with information on other jurisdictions which have implemented similar policies.

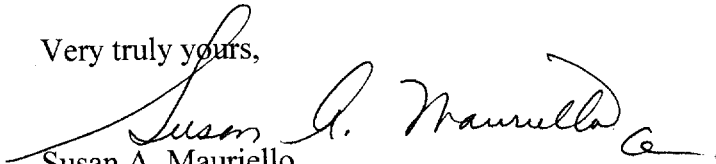
Subsequently, we met with a representative of the Farm Bureau and the staff and department heads from those departments which would be most significantly affected by a pesticide policy. In that meeting, we discussed the goals of the Pesticide Action Coalition and how the attainment of those goals would affect departments. We also identified the amounts and types of pesticides used by each department.

I am pleased to report to you that each of the departments has already been actively involved in reducing the amount of pesticides used and the risk levels of the pesticides used. Each of the department heads supports a policy which would further reduce the amount and risk of pesticides their departments use. However, they also expressed concern that the policy not compromise their ability to effectively and cost-effectively meet their responsibilities to the public.

Although significant progress has been made in developing a proposed policy for your Board's consideration, sufficient time has not been available to allow review of the findings and the proposed policy by all those involved. We would, therefore, like to return to your Board on June 6, 2000, with a proposed policy for your consideration.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD direct the County Administrative Officer to return on June 6, 2000, with a proposed Pesticide Policy.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Susan A. Mauriello". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: Celia Scott, Pesticide Action Coalition
Barry Samuel, POSCS Director
Roy Holmberg, General Services Director
John Fantham, Public Works Director
Dave Moeller, Agriculture Commissioner
Laura Tourte, Agricultural Extension Director
Michael Theriot, Farm Bureau

SAM/DP