



County of Santa Cruz

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 520, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2100 FAX: (831) 454-3420 TDD: (831) 454-2123

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

July 26, 2002

AGENDA: August 6, 2002

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

Caltrans Spraying along County Highways

Dear Members of the Board:


On April 9, 2002, your Board directed the Chairperson to write to Caltrans urging a total elimination of the use of pesticides, acknowledging their efforts to reduce pesticide spraying in the County and urging the establishment of a pesticide hotline (see attached). You also directed the County Administrative Officer to follow up on this matter with a report to the Board.

Your Board has received a response (attached) from R. Gregg Albright, the Caltrans District 5 Director, which provides additional information on the quantity and type of substances used by Caltrans to control ground cover along highways within the County and identifies the agency's reasons for continuing these applications. In addition, Mr. Albright's letter outlines the efforts his office is taking to develop an effective method of notifying the public when pesticides are sprayed on Santa Cruz highways. Based on the number of calls received, the Caltrans hotline for the City of Santa Cruz does not appear to be an effective means of public notification. Caltrans is investigating a less labor-intensive approach through a consultant.

As you know, Caltrans is an active participant on the County's Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group (IPM-DAG). The IPM-DAG will continue to work with Caltrans to reduce the amount of pesticides used within the County and to develop a means of public notification. This office will report back to your Board by January 28, 2003, regarding Caltrans' implementation of a public notification procedure.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD accept and file this report and direct the County Administrative Office to report back by January 28, 2003, on Caltrans' implementation of a public notification procedure.

Very truly yours,


Susan A. Mauriello
County Administrative Officer

cc: Gregg Albright, Caltrans
IPM DAG



County of Santa Cruz ⁰¹⁰²

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

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FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

April 11, 2002

R. Gregg Albright, District Director
California Department of Transportation,
District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5415

RE PESTICIDE SPRAYING ALONG SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HIGHWAYS

Dear Mr. Albright:

At its meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2002, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a series of recommendations regarding the use of pesticide spraying by Caltrans along highways in Santa Cruz County. The Board received testimony regarding the deleterious health effects of such spraying on County residents as well as information from the County's Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group, on which a Caltrans representative participates.

The major thrust of the recommendations was to urge Caltrans to totally eliminate the use of such highway sprayings. As Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, I was directed to write you to convey the Board's determinations on this matter. In particular, the Board directed me to:

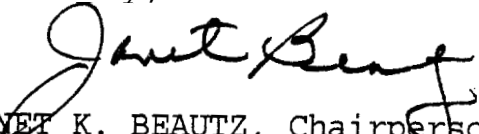
1. Urge Caltrans to totally eliminate the use of pesticides along Santa Cruz County highways' and, as a minimum, significantly accelerate your schedule to meet the 80% reduction goal. The Board did want to acknowledge the efforts Caltrans has made so far in this area.
2. Urge Caltrans to immediately phase out the use of Category II pesticides along the highways; and
3. Strongly urge Caltrans to immediately establish a pesticide hotline that informs residents on a daily basis of where pesticide sprayings will take place in the County. Given the health concerns expressed by a number of County residents regarding the effects of highway spraying, it seems reasonable and important for Caltrans to establish a method where concerned residents can learn where the spraying is planned and avoid those roads.

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Thank you for your consideration of this important issue and we look forward to receiving your response. We understand that roadside pesticide spraying has been eliminated in other counties and very much want it eliminated here as well. If this will not occur, we hope that Caltrans will at least take the responsibility of informing residents of where and when such activities will take place. The increased inconvenience to Caltrans staff needs to be balanced against the strongly felt health dangers perceived by a number of County residents.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:lg

cc: Clerk of the Board
✓ IPM-DAG
Barbara Laurence
Marilyn Garrett

1175H3

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SANTA LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
TELEPHONE (805) 549-3111
TTY (805) 549-3259
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05>

0104



Flex your power!
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July 18, 2002

The Honorable Jan Beautz
Supervisor, First District
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Supervisor Beautz:

Thank you for acknowledging our California Department of Transportation's (Department) pesticide reduction efforts. Regarding the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisor's recommendations to totally eliminate or accelerate the 80% reduction goal, the Board must consider all the vegetation management issues. To make such a change in the management of roadside vegetation without the use of pesticides would require a significantly large increase in resources. The resource issue is something that Santa Cruz County IMP-DAG has identified as one of the biggest hurdles in making the vital shift. In addition, a no-pesticide approach would have significant impacts on traffic congestion in the County. Also worth noting, the Department's use of herbicide during the year 2000 was 1,706 pounds of active ingredient. Interestingly, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation data shows that the total of all pesticides used for the year 2000 in Santa Cruz County) by those required to report pesticide use, totaled 1,620,596 pounds of active ingredient.

In regard to Category II pesticides, "Reward" is the only one being used in the County of Santa Cruz. This product is used only to chemically edge groundcovers. The adverse effect of not maintaining ground cover could have a negative effect on traffic safety by impacting drainage and narrowing road width. Because there are no effective alternatives for this product, we will continue to use it until alternative groundcovers can be replaced that will require no such treatments.

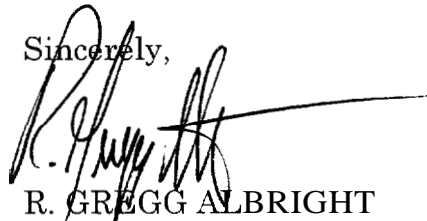
Regarding the establishment of a countywide hotline that informs residents where pesticides are to be sprayed, the Department established such a hotline for the City of Santa Cruz. For the nearly one year that this information line has been in effect, there have only been nine calls received, two of which were from the same caller made on different dates. After accessing the resources needed to manage a hotline countywide, we are now investigating a less labor-intensive approach through a consultant.

It is important to note that the pesticide reduction goals set by the Department statewide have been voluntary. The Department promised to reach the **50%** mark by year 2000 and has done so. We have finished construction on a project on Highway 1 in the City of Santa Cruz that includes the installation of weed barriers and landscape designs that will require no pesticides. After completion, the Department will be seeking public comment on the visual acceptability. This is the type of work we hope will help further reduce pesticide use.

As a final note, the Department is doing everything it can to limit the use of herbicides on the roadside. We will continue to work on the development of alternative vegetation management strategies that will work in roadside settings.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Gregg Albright', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. GREGG ALBRIGHT
District Director