

Recent News

Richmond learns there are trade-offs to banning pesticides



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Richmond has learned there are trade-offs to banning all pesticide-use in weed abatement activities on city properties.

One year after Richmond City Council installed the ban, sparing the community from exposure to the widely-used herbicide glyphosate, city groundskeepers say they are struggling to keep up with ever-sprouting weeds in public spaces.

Public Works Director Yader presented images at Tuesday's council meeting of overgrown public right-of-ways no longer controlled by pesticides. The city is also

having a difficult time tending to youth sports fields ahead of the summer season, Yader said, adding that at least four additional groundskeepers are needed to make up for what the use of pesticides can accomplish.

And while the groundskeepers don't have to breathe in potentially cancer-causing chemicals, Yader added, they suffer from back problems from pulling weeds and have to spend more time working amid dangerous traffic.

Despite the hardships, the majority on City Council did not appear intent on reinstating pesticide use. They cite emerging research on glyphosate, such as a [finding last year](#) by the World Health Organization (WHO) that the chemical is “probably carcinogenic to humans.” The finding was vehemently disputed by industry leaders. The issue on whether glyphosate causes cancer is currently being debated in Europe, where the European Union [must decide](#) whether to continue to extend the approval of its use.

Councilmember Nat Bates believes the city should bring pesticides back, saying the city is beginning to look shabby, which creates a lower quality of life for residents. He added that he doesn't believe Richmond, which is trying to close an \$8 million budget deficit, can afford to pioneer the issue. Richmond is one of only a few jurisdictions in California to have implemented a ban, according to city staff.

However, Mayor Tom Butt, along with members of the Richmond Progressive Alliance on council — Gayle McLaughlin, Jovanka Beckles and Eduardo Martinez — expressed support for continuing the pesticides ban. They say the community's health should take priority over the city's ability to keep up with landscaping.

“I am certain that our county public health department will concur as they have already that this glyphosate is not healthy for our communities,” McLaughlin said. “When it comes to how we want our city to look, we have to put public health first and foremost.”

No actions were taken at Tuesday’s council meeting on the issue. However, council and staff seemed keen on identifying solutions to weed abatement that won’t require hiring additional groundskeepers, including mulching, limited burning, goat herds and other methods.

NORAHG RESPONDS AGAINST RICHMONDS ANTI-PESTICIDE PROHIBITION !

Richmond’s pesticide-hating fanatics, like Beckles, Butt, Martinez, and, McLaughlin, have conspired to impose reckless prohibition against conventional pest control products used to maintain urban green spaces. They were/are WRONG ! Health Canada, and other science-based national regulatory agencies have clearly demonstrated that pest control products used in the urban landscape are LESS TOXIC THAN Aspirin, baking soda, caffeine, cannabis, nicotine, table salt, and Tylenol. Additionally, these products are NO MORE TOXIC THAN ethanol (an edible beverage constituent in beer, wine, and other intoxicating beverages), mouthwash (Listerine), and Vitamin C. Pest control products are SCIENTIFICALLY-SAFE, and will NOT CAUSE HARM TO PEOPLE, ANIMALS, OR THE ENVIRONMENT. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7HR> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-2ha> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-5ni>

Richmond’s pesticide-hating fanatics have imposed a preference to live in a community that looks like a shabby garbage dump. Quite often, these fanatics DO enjoy living and working in unattractive pest-infested garbage dump green spaces. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-44g> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-4z3> <http://wp.me/p1jq40-7C4> Richmond’s home-owners or professionals MUST object to the imposition of such a deviant life-style on the majority of the community that DOES NOT want to live in this manner. No one wants this #@!!% ban nonsense !

It is IMPOSSIBLE for Richmond's home-owners or professionals to keep green spaces safe and attractive by using so-called green alternative pesticides & practices, such as burning and goat herds.

<http://wp.me/P1jq40-24g> Throughout North America, anti-pesticide prohibitions have forced the public to rely on green alternative pesticides & practices that are DISMAL FAILURES. <http://wp.me/P1jq40-445>
<http://wp.me/P1jq40-3yl> <http://wp.me/P1jq40-1JO>
<http://wp.me/p1jq40-6h1>

Richmond's pesticide-hating fanatics are also WRONG about glyphosate herbicide. The assessments from both the 2015 Glyphosate Expert Panel Of Scientists and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) have said glyphosate is NOT LIKELY CARCINOGENIC. Both organizations discredited a study from International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). On March 20th, 2015, the IARC's study arbitrarily classified the herbicide glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, as probably carcinogenic on the basis of limited evidence. IARC's use of the term limited evidence clearly implied that its study was severely flawed, distorted, and unbalanced. Here is a summary of the findings of the 2015 Glyphosate Expert Panel Of Scientists —

- glyphosate DOES NOT cause cancer in lab rats
- glyphosate IS NOT genotoxic
- studies DO NOT show a link between glyphosate exposure and cancer.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) functions as an advisor to policy-makers in the European Union (EU). The EFSA's assessment on glyphosate is expected to lead the European Union to RENEW APPROVAL for glyphosate. The whole truth about the PANEL and EFSA can be found on The Pesticide Truths Web-Site ...

<http://wp.me/p1jq40-98e>

We are the National Organization Responding Against HUJE that conspire to destroy the Green space and other industries (NORAH G). As a non-profit and independent organization, we are environmentalists who are dedicated to reporting about NON-EXPERT PESTICIDE-HATING FANATICS, as well as the work of RESPECTED and HIGHLY RATED EXPERTS who promote ENVIRONMENTAL REALISM and PESTICIDE TRUTHS. <http://wp.me/p1jq40-8DV> Get the latest details at <http://pesticidetruths.com/> WILLIAM H GATHERCOLE AND NORAH G