

EACP Committee

From: John Bottorff <j@cleaneearth4kids.org>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:01 PM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: IPM on County Property Support and Comments
Attachments: County of Maui Pesticide Letter.pdf

Attached is our letter of support and comments for the County of Maui's IPM.

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October 26, 2020

Dear County of Maui Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation Committee,

To protect children's health along with public health and safety, CleanEarth4Kids.org recommends eliminating the use of synthetic pesticides and using organic, regenerative methods. We also highly recommend a policy of eliminating synthetic fertilizers to protect water from toxic algal blooms.

In terms of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), CleanEarth4Kids strongly supports an organic, nontoxic IPM program for parks and parkways along with all county property, including leased lands, as is the practice in Oceanside, CA and other cities.

There is a growing body of evidence that pesticide exposure can harm human beings even at low levels. Children are especially at risk as they are still developing.¹ Pesticides are designed to be toxic. It is urgent to stop the use of toxic pesticides to protect the health of our children, communities and environment. These chemicals are not proven to be safe.

According to a report from the Center for Effective Government (CEG), less than 1% of the chemicals currently registered for commercial use in the US have undergone testing by government agencies.² Yet we are told these chemicals are safe.

The EPA uses industry funded studies to decide pesticide safety. It should come as no surprise that the EPA has only banned 9 chemicals.³ Chemical companies pay for studies and research while donating millions to universities and agricultural programs. They pay scientists, doctors and others who say the chemicals they sell are safe.⁴

An example of this is the recent glyphosate lawsuits against Monsanto/Bayer where it was proven in court that Monsanto ghost wrote favorable studies, interfered with regulators, set up a fake "academic" website to defend glyphosate and attacked scientists and journalists who disagreed with them.^{5 6}

The judge stated in the 2018 verdict that Monsanto "acted with malice, oppression or fraud and should be punished for its conduct." The ruling came in part from what is called "the Monsanto papers"; internal documents that showed Monsanto knew for almost 20 years that RoundUp and glyphosate were toxic⁷ and had actively campaigned against scientists and research studies that showed otherwise.⁸

¹ <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/lawn/factsheets/Pesticide.children.dontmix.pdf>

² <http://foreffectivegov.org/blowing-smoke>

³ <https://www.businessinsider.com/epa-only-restricts-9-chemicals-2016-2>

⁴ <https://publicintegrity.org/environment/meet-the-rented-white-coats-who-defend-toxic-chemicals/>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/02/monsanto-manipulates-journalists-academics>

⁶ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29843257/>

⁷ <https://careygillam.com/articles/article/of-mice-monsanto-and-a-mysterious-tumor>

⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2019/jun/02/monsanto-manipulates-journalists-academics>

With the long history of toxic pesticides causing harm, from DDT to glyphosate, we need to use methods to control pests without chemicals.

By using a systemic approach, pests can be effectively handled without using toxic chemicals. That is why we strongly support the use of a nontoxic, comprehensive IPM program on all county owned lands, including leased lands, based on the experience gained across the nation in places like Marin County in CA⁹ and the cities of Irvine, CA¹⁰; Oceanside, CA¹¹; Oxford, CT¹²; South Miami, FL¹³; along with the Westin Maui Resort & Spa.

The cost increase of using a nontoxic IPM is minimal. The city of Irvine only had a 5.6% increase to their budget to implement their IPM.¹⁴

By comparison, the environmental and social costs of using toxic pesticides is estimated to be \$9.6 billion every year in the US.¹⁵ These toxic chemicals harm human health, drift through the air and contaminate the water, poison fish and harm aquatic life and coral reefs.

According to NOAA, the main cause of damage to coral reefs is land-based pollution¹⁶ and an Australian study stated “Systemic herbicides are of particular ecological concern to coral reef systems, as these compounds are developed for quick environmental uptake through the root system of plants and are therefore relatively water soluble.”¹⁷

By using an IPM, we can manage pests while protecting the health of our children, community and environment. Please approve an organic, nontoxic IPM program for Maui parks and parkways.

Thank you,



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Additional References:

[Pesticide Studies](#)

[Neonicotinoids Studies](#)

[Children's Health Studies](#)

⁹ <https://www.marincountyparks.org/projectsplans/ipm>

¹⁰ <https://www.cityofirvine.org/news-media/news-article/organic-pesticides-program>

¹¹ <https://www.ci.oceanside.ca.us/gov/pw/maintops/maintenance.asp>

¹² <https://patch.com/connecticut/oxford-ct/oxford-goes-non-toxic>

¹³ https://beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/SouthMiami_FL_Organicordinance.pdf

¹⁴ [City of Irvine IPM annual report](#)

¹⁵ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/286617409_Environmental_and_Economic_Costs_of_the_Application_of_Pesticides_Primerily_in_the_United_States

¹⁶ <https://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/visions/coral/side.html>

¹⁷ <https://edepot.wur.nl/192586>