

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' TRANSPORTATION/ PLANNING COMMITTEE

Monday, April 1, 2019
9:30 a.m.

Supervisor Scott Haggerty, Chair
Supervisor Nate Miley

Location: Board of Supervisors Chamber – 5th Floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Report on Alameda County Public Works Agency's use of herbicides in vegetation management on County Right of Ways and Flood Control District Properties

[Attachment](#)

Daniel Woldesenbet, Director, Public Works Agency and John Medlock, Jr., Director, Maintenance & Operations, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Public Works Agency's use of herbicides in vegetation management on County Right of Ways and Flood Control District Properties.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) as: "The practice of promoting desirable, stable, low-growing plant communities that will resist invasion by tall growing tree species through the use of appropriate, environmentally-sound, and cost-effective control methods."

IVM is a strategy used to solve vegetation issues while minimizing risks to people and the environment. The Public Works Agency uses IVM strategies.

The purpose of IVM is to use the most practical, cost-effective and safest methods to achieve desired results. The results the Agency seeks are to:

- Maintain public safety
- Reduce flood risk
- Reduce fire risk
- Maintain rights-of-way access
- Preserve native species
- Prevent spread of invasive plants
- Reduce liability
- Increase sightlines

To achieve these goals, the Public Works Agency utilizes multiple control techniques and practices based on the local site conditions.

Alameda County Public Works Agency use of Glyphosate base products has decreased over a period of years and we project that the use of any products containing Glyphosate will be phased out from use by the Agency by the end of 2019.

Speakers

Jonathan Yoot supports ban on Glyphosate.

Speakers

Charlene Woodcock supports ban on Glyphosate, it is unsafe, long exposure to Glyphosate, damaging effects; what are the toxic components to the alternatives

Diane Williams suggested a moratorium on the use of Glyphosate.

James Collector, a landscaper stated the chemicals hurt insect populations and amphibians, suggest a ban on the use of Glyphosate.

Nnej Kennedy asked three months ago asked for solutions and what other jurisdictions are doing; what actual solutions are already being used; Glyphosate use was phased out in Richmond, CA, she suggests an immediate ban.

Lindsay Vareck said the chemical creates super weeds and Roundup is not effective, Cole Hardware banned the sale and there are several lawsuits against the company Monsanto,

Margaret Byron is a concerned parent, asked that the County let residents know when Roundup is being used, just a minimum exposure is unhealthy.

Isis Feral stated that a ban is needed but it is not enough, other alternatives are not healthy, Glyphosates have been linked to cancer.

Eloy Martinez lives on 105th Avenue stated that some pesticides were banned a long time ago but are coming back in a different form; supports ban on use of chemical pesticides in Alameda County.

Mary Sue Mays stated that serious damage has been caused by humans to our planet; beware of chemicals. She suggested the use of more organic products and repairing soils.

Victoria, member of Planting Justice, stated that a lot of communities do not know that this is being sprayed, supports a ban on the use of Glyphosate.

Tanya Smith stated that residents cannot tolerate pesticides on County lands; encouraged the use of organic gardening.

Amy stated that money from the lawsuits from the use of Roundup is used to pay for health issues.

Loa requested the immediately ban on Glyphosate use.

Richie Beltran stated that the ancestors were good stewards of the earth; when is it a good idea to spray poison on the earth?

Chadanna, is concerned about her child playing in the park that is being sprayed with pesticides; ingredients of the alternatives be published on the website.

Bonnie, stated that in the City of Berkeley she runs a pesticide free garden in, educating neighbors and others as there is so much information out about Glyphosate; She suggested the County provide incentives for people to not use pesticides.

Stephanie Thomas supports a ban on Glyphosate.

Patrick Dunagin, Planting Justice supports ban on the use of Glyphosate.

Andrew Sherrard, Planting Justice, supports a ban on Monsanto's Roundup; the costs of using labor to manage this problem will be offset by improving public health.

Tamara Sharp stated that there is a lot of information about the health detriments of Glyphosate; there are better options, do not replace Glyphosate with other harmful pesticides.

Purpose:

- ☐ Report progress
- ☐ Advocacy or Education
- ☒ **Request Transportation and Planning Committee recommendation**
- ☐ Other:

Recommendation from Transportation & Planning Committee:

- 1) Return to the Transportation Committee or the full Board of Supervisors with a report on not using chemicals in Alameda County, include Environmental Health, Public Health and County Counsel.
- 2) Call an additional Transportation & Planning Committee meeting to bring more information to the Committee regarding alternatives.
- 3) Bring a report on how Santa Clara County banned the use of glyphosate; was it by resolution?
- 4) Instruct the Public Works Agency to bring a resolution to the Board to discontinue the use of glyphosate.
- 5) Discontinue the use of Glyphosate; establish a County policy or ordinance, regarding all herbicides to minimize and or stop use.

II. Consideration of draft amendments to Chapter 6.106, Chapter 6.108 and Title 17 of the County Ordinance Code, and the addition of Chapter 6.109, to allow permitted cannabis operations in specified areas to include additional cannabis-related activities, to allow permitted cannabis cultivators to distribute their own cannabis products, to allow cannabis testing labs in specified areas and to add provisions regarding the tracking of child support obligations for cannabis permit holders and employees of permitted operations. Discussion of adopted cultivation permit and monitoring and compliance fees, and potential outdoor cannabis cultivation

[Attachment](#)
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Albert Lopez, Director, Planning Department, Community Development Agency, presented a memorandum and amendments to the Cannabis ordinances regarding cannabis related activities.

Previous direction from the Transportation & Planning Committee to staff has resulted in the following:

Felony Convictions - Maintain restrictions on applicants and employees with convictions within the last three years.

Child Support - Require payment obligations to be added to the draft ordinances.

West County Retail Operations - Amend ordinance to allow retail operations in Ashland and Cherryland to transition into microbusinesses (combined cannabis operations).

East County - Allow retail sales and cultivation operations to become microbusinesses (combined cannabis operations). Retail sites could include cultivation, distribution, and/or manufacturing; Disallow cultivation sites from becoming retail operations; Allow testing laboratories in the East County; Allow cultivation sites to self-distribute their own grown product.

Commander Kelly Miles, Sheriff's Office, stated that the Sheriff's Office is opposed to outdoor grows of cannabis.

Speakers

Dr. Larry Gosselin supports amendments to the ordinances.

Laura del Castillo supports allowing microbusinesses.

Michael Picard stated the County needs to do something to reduce the traffic as a result of cannabis businesses.

Jack Norton supports amendments to cannabis ordinances.

Sharif El-Sissi supports amendments to ordinances and allowing outdoor grows.

Brenda Morris does not support the amendments and or cannabis businesses in the area.

Mark Jaegel supports the amendments to the cannabis ordinances.

Purpose:

☒ **Report progress**

☐ Advocacy or Education

☐ Request Transportation and Planning Committee recommendation

☒ **Other: Discussion**

Recommendation from Transportation & Planning Committee: Directed staff to place a moratorium on all fee collection until operators receive their Conditional Use Permit; Allow a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) process for open grows; CDA to review a process for capping fees at \$5,000 for cultivation and retail.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.