CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO  
COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
POLICY COMMITTEE*  

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES DRAFT  

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2017, 5:00 P.M.  
CITY HALL, ROOM 416  
ONE DR. CARLTON B. GOODLETT JR. PLACE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102  

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Commissioners Johanna Wald (Chair), Elmy Bermejo, Lisa Hoyos.  

ORDER OF BUSINESS  
Public comment will be taken before the Committee takes action on any item.  

1. Call to Order and Roll Call. The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m.  

Present: Commissioners Wald, Bermejo and Hoyos.  


Commissioner Bermejo moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Hoyos seconded.  

Commissioner Bermejo withdrew the motion after Commissioner Hoyos pointed out that there was a Policy Committee meeting in February.  

Anthony Valdez, Commission Affairs Manager, said that the February and March meeting minutes will be considered in the April meeting.  

There was no public comment.  

3. Public Comment. Members of the public may address the Committee on matters that are within the Committee’s jurisdiction and are not on today’s agenda.  

Unidentified speaker discussed San Francisco’s Integrated Pest Management program.  

Unidentified speaker discussed an appeal by the San Francisco Forest Alliance and the use of pesticides in Mount Davidson and on trees.  

Eric Brooks, San Francisco Green Party and Our City, discussed the use of herbicides and pesticides in San Francisco and the comments of staff to the Board of Supervisors.
Commissioner Wald clarified that the staff discussed by Eric Brooks were not employed by the Department of the Environment.

4. **Policy Committee recommendation that the Commission on the Environment approve the 2017 Reduced Risk Pesticide list for City properties.** Under the Environment Code, the Department maintains a Reduced Risk Pesticide List identifying those pesticides that may be used on City property, subject to restrictions. Sponsor: Deborah Raphael, Director; Speaker Dr. Chris Geiger, Ph.D., Integrated Pest Management Program Manager (Explanatory Documents: Staff Memo, 2017 Reduced Risk Pesticide List and Issues and Responses) (Discussion and Action)

   Anthony Valdez, Commission Affairs Manager, noted to Commissioners and the public that staff had amendments to Items #13 and #14 in the 2017 Reduced Risk Pesticide List restrictions.

   Director Raphael noted that it is the fourth time the Commission had discussed the issue since December 2015, the seriousness that the staff takes on the matter, minimizing harm, the City’s values and the importance of care to the applicator and to the public.

   Dr. Chris Geiger, Ph.D., Integrated Pest Management Program Manager, discussed the importance of partner departments, City use of Tier 1 herbicides and an 81 percent reduction, restrictions on use including designated paths, children’s play areas, public noticing, blue indicator dyes, restriction on blackberries, cosmetic use and broadcast spraying, contractors, changes to the 2017 list, next steps and process timeline.

   Lisa Wayne, Natural Resources Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department discussed the Department’s mission, the management of lands, the use of chemicals as a last resort, reductions in the use of herbicides and pesticides, support for the Department of the Environment IPM process, new IPM staff at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department.

   James Brassil, Landscape Manager, San Francisco International Airport, discussed cutting edge land management at SFO, pesticide use as the last resort.

   DeShelia Mixon, IPM Coordinator, San Francisco Public Works, discussed safety of the public, the environment and employees.

   Jessica Appel, Supervising Biologist, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, discussed working with the San Francisco Department of the Environment on trainings and alternatives to herbicides and pesticides.

   **Public Comment:**

   Dee Seligman submitted suggested amendments and discussed various proposed changes to the requirements.

   Jake Sigg discussed staffing for the Natural Areas Program and the use of herbicides.

   Eric Brooks discussed active ingredient standard, submitted suggested amendments and discussed various proposed changes to the requirements.

   Commissioner Hoyos asked about upslope, backpack and broadcast spraying application of herbicides.

   Director Raphael expressed appreciation for the specificity, discussed the difficulty in working with late amendments and the importance of targeted spraying.
Michael Balea discussed measuring quantities of herbicides, certificates for applicators and a ban on the use of herbicides in parks.

Robert Sutton discussed the prominence of glyphosate.

Kristen Natoli, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, discussed San Francisco’s Integrated Pest Management Ordinance.

Rachel Kesel discussed actions to minimize applications of herbicides, the language of the restrictions.

Unidentified speaker discussed garlon and oxalis.

Anastacia Glickstern discussed biodiversity, trends in the use of herbicides and fire hazards caused by trees and vegetation.

Matt Pruitt, IPM Coordinator, Recreation and Parks Department discussed examples of when glyphosate has been requested for use.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about the use of flags in treated areas, translation of notices, the definition of childrens’ playing areas, criteria for using herbicides near childrens’ parks and the possibility of a wider buffer outside of childrens’ play areas for Tier 1 and Tier 2 herbicides.

Commissioner Wald asked for serious consideration about flags where herbicides are being applied, banning Tier 1 and Tier 2 at parks without natural areas or protected biodiversity.

Director Raphael discussed the importance of rules and regulations that are self-implementing.

Commissioner Hoyos asked about creating a pilot program to restrict the use of Tier 1 herbicides, the use of flags and the monitoring of data for usage of herbicides.

Director Raphael recommended holding off on the Committee voting and that the issue be taken to the full Commission.

Commissioner Wald asked about the Department moving to advanced notification of spraying of herbicides in parks.

Commissioner Bermejo thanked staff of the various departments for their partnership and listening to the public, discussed the importance of the average person finding information about the application of insecticides and herbicides and supported moving forward.

Director Raphael summarized the conversation.

5. **Director’s Update.** Deborah Raphael, Director (Discussion)

Deborah Raphael, Director, discussed the introduction of a electric vehicle readiness ordinance, the people that benefit from the electric vehicle economy including students at San Francisco City College, a press conference held with the Mayor and Supervisor Katy Tang, the Department’s submittal of a balanced budget to the Mayor and the increase in cannabis businesses and the environmental impacts of energy and pesticide usage, an award by the Mayor’s Office of Innovation for the Department’s translation websites and Earth Day activities.
Public Comment:

Eric Brooks, San Francisco Green Party and Our City, discussed the designation of electric vehicle charging stations as shared spaces and the use of personal vehicles.

Unidentified speaker asked about receiving responses from staff about recommendations from the public.

Rupa Bose discussed pesticide free parks.

6. New Business/Future Agenda Items. Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director (Discussion)

Guillermo Rodriguez, Policy and Communications Director, discussed future agenda items including a presentation on the Anti-biotics Ordinance, a Bottle Bill Update and an update on the progress of the pharmaceutical collection program.

Public Comment:

Eric Brooks, San Francisco Green Party and Our City, discussed a program to identify non-GMO restaurants and a discussion of the standard of harm.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission on the Environment Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall, Room 421.

Copies of explanatory documents are available at (1) the Commission’s office, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, California, 94103 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Photo identification is required for entry to the building. (2) on the Commission’s website http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission; (3) upon request to the Commission Affairs Manager, at telephone number 415-355-3709, or via e-mail at Anthony.E.Valdez@sfgov.org. If any materials related to an item on this agenda have been distributed to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet, those materials are available for public inspection at the Department of the Environment, 1455 Market Street, Suite 1200, San Francisco, CA 94103 during normal office hours or will be made available on the Commission’s website http://www.sfenvironment.org/commission as attachments to the agenda or meeting minutes.

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