

**From:** susanna klebaner  
**To:** [Valdez, Anthony \(ENV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors, \(BOS\)](#); [BrownStaff](#); [Kim, Jane \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Tang, Katy \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \(BOS\)](#); [Cohen, Malia \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Mayor London Breed \(MYR\)](#); [Geiger, Chris \(ENV\)](#); [Raphael, Deborah \(ENV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Reduced Risk Pesticide List - 9-17-2018  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 4:22:33 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

There are many reasons not to use pesticides:

- Pesticides don't solve pest problems.
- Pesticides are hazardous to our health.
- Pesticides cause special problems for children.
- Pesticides contaminate our food, water, and air.
- Pesticides are dangerous to pets.
- Pesticides are not good for pollinators, fish, birds, wildlife.
- Pesticide "Health & Safety Testing" is conducted by chemical companies.
- Pesticides have too many secrets.

Herbicides hold a special place among pesticides - it is particularly inane to use them - since, while the "pest" plants pose no threat to our health and well-being, the poisons used against these "pests" most certainly do.

Our land can and must be maintained organically.  
The high hazard herbicides must be banned.

Please include my letter into the meeting minutes.

Sincerely,  
Susanna Klebaner

**From:** Anastasia Glikshtern  
**To:** [Valdez, Anthony \(ENV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BrownStaff](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Kim, Jane \(BOS\)](#); [Tang, Katy \(BOS\)](#); [Cohen, Malia \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Brown, Vallie \(BOS\)](#); [Mayor London Breed \(MYR\)](#); [Raphael, Deborah \(ENV\)](#); [Geiger, Chris \(ENV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Reduced Risk Pesticide List  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 5:02:24 PM

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Commissioners,

As you know, this August Monsanto was ordered to pay \$289.2 millions in damages to Dewayne Lee Johnson, a former Benicia School District groundskeeper with terminal non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. The jury decided that the company knew about the carcinogenicity of Roundup/glyphosate all along and purposely deceived the public.

Here is YouTube recording of the verdict:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um00x2EITWs&feature=youtu.be>

And more about the trial:

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/monsanto-roundup-trial-verdict>

At the same time Roundup is considered by our Department of the Environment to be one of the "safest effective options" to eliminate "invasive" plants.

In city of Fairfax ordinance one of the reason of NOT TO USE PESTICIDES is cost: such use is very expensive.

Non Toxic Irvine also noted that switching from toxins to the organic management of the schools' sport fields resulted in lesser cost even with the original expenditures to heal the land. More cost savings are expected in the future and the city is positioned to scale the trial project up to all schools and city parks.

But SF claims it is cheap - and the money savings are the reason good enough to poison the environment.

Please drop your addiction to the toxins, stop supporting chemical companies, stop using high toxicity herbicides.

Thank you,

Anastasia Glikshtern

**From:** Patricia Chu  
**To:** [Valdez, Anthony \(ENV\)](#)  
**Subject:** keeping our public parks safe  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 6:46:23 PM

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Hi:

I am writing to ask for your consideration to use safe measures to control weeds that do not involve toxic herbicides which can harm our immune systems....especially in areas where we may play in or lie down in. Thank you. No reply necessary.  
Patricia Chu, resident of SF for 61 years.

**As you might know, on August 10, 2018, after 8 week of trial proceedings, and two and a half days of deliberation, the jury in case against Monsanto in San Francisco returned a guilty verdict. Monsanto was ordered to pay \$39.2 million in compensatory damages and \$250 million in punitive damages to Dewayne Lee Johnson, a former Benicia School District groundskeeper with terminal non-Hodgkins Lymphoma. The jury decided that the company knew about the carcinogenicity of Roundup/glyphosate all along and purposely deceived the public. You can view the verdict here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um00x2ElTWs&feature=youtu.be> And read more about the trial here: <https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/monsanto-roundup-trial-verdict>**

**From:** Eugene Bachmanov  
**To:** [Valdez, Anthony \(ENV\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Board of Supervisors \(BOS\)](#); [BrownStaff](#); [Kim, Jane \(BOS\)](#); [Safai, Ahsha \(BOS\)](#); [Tang, Katy \(BOS\)](#); [MandelmanStaff, \[BOS\]](#); [Cohen, Malia \(BOS\)](#); [Fewer, Sandra \(BOS\)](#); [Peskin, Aaron \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Yee, Norman \(BOS\)](#); [Mayor London Breed \(MYR\)](#); [Geiger, Chris \(ENV\)](#); [Raphael, Deborah \(ENV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Reduced Risk Pesticide List - 9-17-2018 meeting, item 6 on the agenda,  
**Date:** Friday, September 14, 2018 9:30:34 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

Here is a quote from a recent "Nature News from Jake Sigg" blog:

"People are concerned about the massive spraying of agricultural fields but they don't connect that to the need to feed 8 billion of us.

What bothers me .... is that there is wide condemnation of chemicals (mostly by urban dwellers), much of which is not based on fact or understanding of need. Herbicides and other chemicals are used for a wide variety of purposes that are considered as necessary or desirable."

It is reassuring to read that the local oracle for worshipers of "native" plants and "biodiversity" sides wholeheartedly with big agriculture and chemical industry.

I understand that SF Department of the Environment and the Commission on the Environment do so too.

It is disgusting, though, that you speak about adhering to the precautionary principle and about "reduced" risk pesticides, while making contribution to poisoning the environment and killing our children - smaller than big agriculture, but a contribution, nevertheless.

Please do remember that more than 50 years ago Rachel Carson in her book Silent Spring outlined the insanity of poisoning our environment.

If anything, the things are worse now than they were then.

Dr. Jane Goodall recently said: "How could we have ever believed that it is a good idea to grow our food with poisons?"

How can anybody believe that it is a good idea to use these poisons in our parks or on watershed is an equally valid question.

It seems that being "national leaders in integrated pest management" means putting a good spin on unjustifiable practice.

I'm in total agreement with the SF Forest Alliance letter about SF pesticide use - ban high hazard herbicides immediately!

Sincerely,

Eugene Bachmanov

**From:** SF Forest  
**To:** [Geiger, Chris \(ENV\)](#); [Raphael, Deborah \(ENV\)](#); [Valdez, Anthony \(ENV\)](#)  
**Subject:** Pesticides Policy in San Francisco in 2018 - additional comments  
**Date:** Saturday, September 15, 2018 4:23:26 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

The San Francisco Forest Alliance's earlier letter to Director Raphael and Dr. Geiger is appended below. We stand behind every point made in that letter and find the responses in "Issues and Responses" have not addressed our concerns.

In addition, we would like to say the following:

1) Monsanto lost a case in San Francisco. The jury decided that the company knew about the carcinogenicity of Roundup/glyphosate all along and purposely deceived the public. On August 10, 2018, after 8 week of trial proceedings, and two and a half days of deliberation, the jury in case against Monsanto in San Francisco returned a guilty verdict. Monsanto was ordered to pay \$39.2 million in compensatory damages and \$250 million in punitive damages to Dewayne Lee Johnson, a former Benicia School District groundskeeper with terminal non-Hodgkins Lymphoma.

You can view the verdict here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=um00x2EITWs&feature=youtu.be>

And read more about the trial here:

<https://www.organicconsumers.org/blog/monsanto-roundup-trial-verdict>

Meanwhile Roundup remains on the "Reduced-Risk Pesticide List" as one of the "safest effective options" to eliminate non-desirable (by some) plants. As recently as 2015, it was considered a Tier II herbicide by SF Environment.

It is possible, though, that it might be safer than some other "safe" options on that list.

2) According to the Non-toxic Irvine organization - and contrary to the Agency Response - the trial of an "organic only" approach to the management of several school fields in Irvine was not only successful, but did actually cost less than toxic one. More cost savings are projected in the future. Such approach will be scaled up to all the school fields and city parks.

3) Herbicide use by SF Natural Resource Department has risen sharply in the first half of 2018. If this continues in the second half, NRD will end the year at nearly the level of pesticide use in 2013.

<https://sfforest.org/2018/07/17/herbicide-use-by-san-francisco-natural-resource-department-rises-sharply-in-1h-2018/>

4) The amount of 1.5 gallons of Tier I herbicides is not trivial. As little as 5 fluid ounces of Roundup can be lethal (as discovered from hospital studies of suicide attempts) and long-term exposure can have other negative health effects even when it does not kill directly. And while 1100 acres is the land that Natural Resources

Department controls, all of it is not sprayed each year. Certain - heavily-used - parks are targeted more often than others. From Jan-October 2017, for instance, Twin Peaks was sprayed 32 times, and Glen Canyon 27 times.

Far from being “most critical to public health, public safety and protection of major public assets” herbicides are very damaging to public health, public safety, and biodiversity.

We would like to reemphasize that toxic herbicides are banned from the Sharp Park, according to a court decision, because they would damage biodiversity and endangered species living there.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Forest Alliance

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Appended: SF Forest Alliance letter dated July 16, 2018

To Director Deborah Raphael, Dr Chris Geiger, and the Commission for the Environment  
From San Francisco Forest Alliance

Dear Dr. Geiger,  
Dear Director Raphael,  
Dear Members of the Environment Commission

Your Notice of Annual Public Hearing Regarding Pest Management Activities on City Properties incorrectly states that “San Francisco city staff have been national leaders in integrated pest management (IPM) since the City passed its Integrated Pest Management Ordinance in 1996.”

In fact, 1996 Ordinance was gutted in 1997.

While San Francisco has made some progress, we are far from being national leaders. Our current system enshrines the routine use of herbicides.

At present, the city can use whatever pesticide it wishes, wherever it wishes, as much as it wishes - as long as the pesticide is on "Reduced Risk Pesticide List" (Reduced compared to what?). If it wishes to go outside the list, it can seek an exemption. Such exemptions are seldom refused, particularly in "Natural Areas."

The Marin Municipal Water District has been herbicide free since 2005.

Meanwhile San Francisco continuously uses hazardous herbicides in our watersheds.

In a 2017 pilot project, Marin successfully demonstrated that traffic medians could be maintained without glyphosate (the only synthetic herbicide previously used on medians). Marin County will continue to move forward without herbicides on all medians and roadside landscapes.

The City of Richmond had completely banned use of all herbicides by the city in 2016.

The use of all synthetic pesticides in parks, open space parcels and public rights of way and buildings owned and maintained by the Town of Fairfax is prohibited and a neighbor notification is required prior to the use of pesticides on private property.

In 2000 the Arcata City Council approved by unanimous vote the ordinance which bans the use of pesticides on all properties owned or managed by the city.

In France the pesticides are banned from public forests, parks and gardens since the end of 2016.

The city of San Francisco, on another hand, cannot even commit to use reduction targets for herbicides. In 2017, herbicide usage by the Natural Resources Department rose 57%.

The city claims that the high hazard herbicides are used only as a last resort. In fact, they are used regularly throughout the year, and have been used regularly for many years.

The city claims that the high hazard herbicides are necessary to help "sensitive species," while in accordance with the court order their use is prohibited in Sharp Park precisely because of the presence there of the endangered California garter snake and threatened red-legged frog. A 2002 paper from UC Davis pointed out that over 40% of Californian butterfly species depend on non-native plants in urban-suburban areas, and notes, "Were certain alien weeds to be eradicated or their abundance greatly reduced, the urban-suburban butterfly fauna would disappear."

Last week the trial of DeWayne Johnson v. Monsanto Company – the first of over 4,500 such cases - got underway in San Francisco Superior Court.

Meanwhile, glyphosate remains on the SF "Reduced Risk Pesticide List" and is being used by the city - three years after it has been classified as a "probable carcinogen" by the International Agency for Research on Cancer of the World Health Organization.

San Francisco Forest Alliance brings to your attention that:

- herbicidal chemicals are more toxic, more dangerous, more persistent, and more mobile than their manufacturers disclose;
- the "danger" from "weeds" is aesthetic or ideological rather than to health and welfare;
- scientific studies associate exposure to herbicides with cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects, and disruption of the endocrine system;
- there is no safe dose of exposure to those chemicals because they persists in soil, water, and animal tissue for prolonged periods of time, so even low levels of exposure could still be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment;
- infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to herbicide effects and exposure;
- herbicides are harmful to pets, wildlife including threatened and endangered species, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems;
- toxic runoff from herbicides pollute streams and groundwater, and therefore the drinking water sources;
- people have a right not to be involuntarily exposed to herbicides in the air, water or soil that inevitably result from chemical drift and contaminated runoff.

Because of above considerations we ask that all synthetic herbicides classified as Tier I and all non-organic herbicides classified as Tier II by the San Francisco Hazard Tier Rating System shall be banned on all City property and the lands managed by the city, with the only exemption for Harding Park Golf Course which is under PGA contract.

We also ask that:

- no other herbicide exemption shall be granted for any other City Property or the land managed by the city,
- such herbicides would be immediately removed from the Reduced Risk Pesticide List with the special exception for use on Harding Park Golf Course only,
- the City stop purchasing hazardous herbicides, and disposes of any remaining stock immediately, following the city's hazardous waste disposal protocols; again exempting the herbicides intended for use on Harding Park Golf Course only.

We ask SF Environment to lead San Francisco toward the goal of No Pesticides in our Parks and Watersheds.

Sincerely,

San Francisco Forest Alliance