

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS KATHRYN BARGER AND SHEILA KUEHL

MARCH 19, 2019

**EXAMINING THE USE OF GLYPHOSATE FOR VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

The use of glyphosate is a well-known, effective weed abatement method used by many public and private entities. Currently, County departments contract with the County Agricultural Commissioner/Department of Weights and Measures (Agricultural Commissioner) to perform their spraying routines. The Agricultural Commissioner serves as the principal regulator of herbicides and pesticides in the County. Use of the herbicide must be done in full compliance with all Federal and State regulations that govern them. The Agricultural Commissioner operates under the Countywide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) System and has established protocols for herbicide use.

Despite these controls, there is a growing body of scientific study around the safety of using herbicides and the ill effect it can have on human, animal, and environmental health. County residents who live near active application sites have shared deep concern about the use of glyphosate-based herbicides and have expressed dismay at the scale of which County departments utilize this method. In the interest of public health, the Board should temporarily ban the use of this herbicide until further research can be done to identify alternative methods for vegetation management and the safety can be reviewed by Public Health professionals.

-M O R E-

MOTION

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**WE, THEREFORE, MOVE** that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works in conjunction with Public Health, Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, and the Agricultural Commission to:

- 1) Provide an assessment of the prevalence of glyphosate-based product use for vegetation management purposes throughout the Unincorporated Areas,
- 2) Identify protocols that lead to the use of glyphosate as an abatement agent,
- 3) Explore alternatives to the use of glyphosate and identify recommended strategies, that do not involve its use,
- 4) Identify Best Practices on what methods other jurisdictions use, and
- 5) Report back to the Board on findings and alternatives within 30 days.

**WE, FURTHER, MOVE** that all use of Glyphosate-based products cease until completion of the 30-day report back and alternative methods can be identified.

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