

# NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

[protectourwatershed.org/news-from-our-director.html](http://protectourwatershed.org/news-from-our-director.html)

## UPDATES FROM PATTY MAYALL:

7/27/18

From: Patty Mayall  
Sent: To Group List

Greetings All,

MANY thanks and congratulations to Lori McBride, RWC, who took on this issue in February which led to RWC Mayor Bain stating:

"...the City no longer uses Glyphosate for weed abatement, and instead uses organic, citrus-based herbicides." (from email below)

Lori is following up with him and asking whether or not RWC contracts-out some of the vegetation management work, as many cities do, and if the contracts with landscapers uphold this policy. She is also asking what products they are using as alternatives.

Here is proof that WE are being heard and changing the use of toxic chemicals (for decades) on our public roads and parks !

Please take a moment to commend Lori (I will forward any emails to her) and Mayor Bain (contact info below) for protecting public health and our environment with this positive and powerful action !

With gratitude,  
Patty Mayall  
Director, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County  
[www.protectourwatershed.org](http://www.protectourwatershed.org)

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-----Original Message----- **EMAIL LORI SENT TO MAYOR BAIN**



From: Lori McBride (email removed for her privacy)

Sent: Jun 11

Hi Ian,

Thanks so much for your follow up and the great news that Redwood City is using an organic based herbicide instead of Glyphosate! I appreciate you letting me know.

Lori

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-----Original Message----- **REPLY FROM MAYOR BAIN**

From: Ian Bain <ibain@redwoodcity.org>

To: Lori McBride

Cc: Council-Janet Borgens <jborgens@redwoodcity.org>; Council-Shelly Masur <smasur@redwoodcity.org>; GRP-City Council <council@redwoodcity.org>; MGR-Melissa Stevenson Diaz <mdiaz@redwoodcity.org>

Sent: Mon, Jun 11, 2018 10:17 am

Subject: Re: Spraying of Glyphosate

Dear Lori,

I wanted to follow up and let you know that the City no longer uses Glyphosate for weed abatement, and instead uses organic, citrus-based herbicides. While this requires more frequent spraying, we believe this is the right thing to do for the environment.

Respectfully,

IAN BAIN

Mayor

City of Redwood City

Phone: (650) 780-7565

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**A NEW CALTRANS ACTING DIRECTOR WAS APPOINTED**

**Email sent to the new Caltrans District 4 Director James Davis**

**07/23/18**

From: patty mayall

Date: Mon, Jul 23, 2018 at 9:53 PM

Subject: SMC Herbicide Spraying

To: James Davis <james.davis@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: "Weiss, Jeffrey A@DOT" <Jeffrey.Weiss@dot.ca.gov>, Joan Dentler <joan.dentler@sen.ca.gov>, Louis Morrone <louis.morrone@asm.ca.gov>, Don Horsley <Dhorsley@co.sanmateo.ca.us>, Dave Pine <dpine@smcgov.org>

Greetings Director Davis,

I am writing on behalf of Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County, as the director and founder of our local organization. As our Caltrans District 4 (Acting) Director, please answer these crucial questions and help us to improve communication and to reach an agreement with Caltrans.

1. Is there a time-line for the appointment of the next District 4 Director ?
2. How has Caltrans done CEQA (Calif. Environmental Quality Act) for broadcast roadside herbicide spraying for vegetation management ?
3. Will Caltrans respond to our community's repeated requests to end broadcast roadside herbicide spraying on SMC Hwys. 84 and 35 with a written agreement ?
4. Will Caltrans stop using Glyphosate-based herbicides given the serious health risks ?

Members of my community and I have worked on this crucial issue since 2006, and in 2012, our San Mateo County (SMC) Board of Supervisors passed the resolution ending broadcast herbicide spraying on all county roads and parks. On our website, you can view the video of this historic decision, along with one of the supervisors mentioning Caltrans, as all of us hoped that Caltrans would follow this lead. This has happened in other areas of California, and we do not understand why it cannot happen here.

Since 2012, we have worked on this issue with Caltrans, and unfortunately, communication has seriously deteriorated. Caltrans' personnel changes and policy misunderstandings have made the situation worse. For clarity and consistency, we have repeatedly requested a written agreement for SMC Hwys. 84 and 35 which are the roads that run through our communities, adjacent to our private water sources and within major watershed areas.

Please work with us to draft a written agreement ending the broadcast roadside herbicide spraying along SMC Highways 84 and 35.

Recently, we consulted with an environmental attorney experienced on this issue who advised asking about Caltrans' CEQA process and to do a Public Records request, if needed. We have the Caltrans records of herbicide spraying on SMC highways 1, 280, 92, 84, and 35 posted on our website, along with the long list of toxic herbicides used over the years.

Many of us commend Caltrans for the "Protect Every Drop" campaign

<http://www.protecteverydrop.com/>

However, it seems inconsistent with the pollution that broadcast spraying toxic chemicals along state highways imposes on watersheds and people's lives.

Below are the last emails with Public Information Officer Jeff Weiss who replaced Gidget Navarro as our contact, and the total emails and phone calls on this issue would fill volumes. We've collected hundreds of petition signatures, and we continue to wonder why a public agency is not prioritizing the protection of the public's health.

Alternatives to using toxic chemicals for weeds exist and are used by many cities, counties, and Caltrans.

I welcome discussing this issue with you and hope to create an agreement that will protect our health and uphold Caltrans' goals to reduce toxic pollution along our state highways.

With gratitude for your time and attention,

Patty Mayall

Director, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County  
[www.protectourwatershed.org](http://www.protectourwatershed.org)

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