



**Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter
Celebrating 80 years of protecting the planet**

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April 26, 2015

Mr. Bijan Sartipi
District Director
Caltrans District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Mr. Bijan Sartipi,

I write on behalf of the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club to question the recent use of herbicides for control of broom and other vegetation along state highways in San Mateo County.

In looking at Caltrans' own website it appears that your agency conducted a study back in 1997 titled California Roadsides, A New Perspective. In that document it is indicated that the department had a goal of an 80% reduction in the use of broadcast herbicides by 2012. I am wondering - has the department reached that goal? If not this seems like a situation where the agency might consider re-committing to reach its stated goals.

Secondly, the same document recommends the establishment of a Roadside Vegetation Management Committee and a Public Advisory Liaison Committee. I am wondering if there are extant committees for District 4 and, if so, where and when do these committees meet? If not, it seems to us that implementing Caltrans' own study recommendations would be a good step in the right direction.

In closing, we are simply asking the California Department of Transportation to take more active steps in reaching its own stated roadside maintenance objectives in District 4.

Janet Hoffmann,

Pesticide Committee Chair
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