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Date: Oct 2, 2017 10:23 AM
Subject: Herbicide Spraying in San Mateo County
To: "kbradshaw@embarcaderopublishing.com" <kbradshaw@embarcaderopublishing.com>,
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Hi Kate & Patty,

I'm Jeff Weiss, the new Public Information Officer for San Mateo County –replacing Gidget who left in January. I'm sending answers to Patty's questions which were condensed by Kate who sent them to me. The questions addressed herbicide spraying along Interstate 280.

Let me know if you have other questions.

Thanks!

Jeff Weiss

Caltrans Public Affairs

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Was it a herbicide spraying?

Yes, it was herbicide spraying

What was being sprayed?

Caltrans crews were spraying glyphosate

Where and where was it being sprayed, and how much?

In September, in San Mateo County, Caltrans has sprayed 80% of I-280 and 40% of Highway 101. All spraying was performed within limits ascribed by the federal and state environmental protection agencies.

Caltrans sprayed to keep an adequate fire barrier between the road and the brush and also to control stinkwort, an invasive plant that has more and more prevalent.

It's important to kill the stinkwort now because it drops its seeds in the fall. Mowing at this time would only spread the seeds far and wide.

Does Caltrans post warning when they spray a known carcinogen along roadsides to warn walkers, bicyclists, motorcyclists and people riding in convertibles or walking pets of the presence of the listed substance?

Caltrans is complying with Prop 65.

We are not required to post a warning. As a practical matter, work crews jumping in and out of vehicles to post signs on a freeway is far more hazardous than the presence of glyphosate.

If the glyphosate is sprayed on a calm day, which it was on the day Patty took the picture, then the spray will not drift onto the roadway. Also, glyphosate quickly binds with the soil, making the chemical in the herbicide inert.

Are there current plans for herbicide spraying on SMC Highways 280, 84, 35 and 1?
Caltrans has plans to spray along these routes but has not defined the timetable or the exact areas that will be sprayed.