

# NEWS FROM OUR DIRECTOR

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## FROM PATTY MAYALL:

**09/13/2017 - 09/14/2017**

----- Forwarded message -----

From: patty mayall

Date: Wed, Sep 13, 2017 at 11:58 PM

Subject: Hwy.280 spraying 9/13, SMC

To: Robert Haus <Robert.haus@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: Joan Dentler <joan.dentler@sen.ca.gov>

Thank you, Mr. Haus,

For taking my call and offering to check into what I witnessed today (9/13/17). Below is a photo that I took at 3 pm on Hwy.280, southbound between Edgewood Rd. and Farm Hill Rd. in San Mateo County.

I'd appreciate it if you can let me know if this was herbicide spraying, and if yes, what was being sprayed, where and when.

Are there current plans for herbicide spraying on SMC Highways 280, 84, 35 and 1?

It appeared to be an herbicide spraying truck : from the front view, I saw 3 large, different colored containers, but I could not safely photograph it.

With gratitude for your time and help,

Patty Mayall

Director, Protect Our Watershed SMC



From: patty mayall

Date: Thu, Sep 14, 2017 at 9:56 AM

Subject: Urgent: Hwy.280 spraying 9/13, SMC

To: Bijan Sartipi <bijan.sartipi@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: Senator Jerry Hill <senator.hill@senate.ca.gov>, Joan Dentler<joan.dentler@sen.ca.gov>, Robert Haus <Robert.haus@dot.ca.gov>, Don Horsley <Dhorsley@co.sanmateo.ca.us>, Carole Groom <cgroom@co.sanmateo.ca.us>, Dave Pine <Dpine@co.sanmateo.ca.us>

District 4 Director Sartipi,

Yesterday, I witnessed what appeared to be Caltrans broadcast herbicide spraying along Hwy. 280 in San Mateo County (photo and details below).

There were significant wind gusts which will likely continue today. In the past, Caltrans has stated that it does not spray herbicides in these conditions due to drift, and public agencies should not be spraying in those conditions.

Please cease, or at least delay, this broadcast herbicide spraying on Hwy. 280. Please consider the significant public health risks to motorists and to the surrounding watershed areas along this scenic highway.

It is disturbing to many of us that there is no public notification nor warning of this toxic chemical exposure.

We have the Caltrans records on our website of the extensive broadcast roadside spraying done in Spring 2017 on both sides of Hwy. 280 from San Bruno through SMC to Santa Clara County, with no public warning. We recently obtained the records of the extensive broadcast herbicide spraying done in 2016 along Hwys. 1, 35, 92, and 84.

Given the health risks of the toxic chemicals used and the manufacturers' warnings to not enter areas after application of some of those herbicides, why is this allowed to continue ?

We request that Caltrans end this unnecessary, toxic and often ineffective method of weed control, as San Mateo County ended broadcast roadside spraying in 2012, and the public has repeatedly requested that Caltrans follow their lead and focus on the most effective vegetation management for all purposes which is cutting and mowing. Please choose to protect our public health and watersheds.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Patty Mayall

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