

03/10/2016 POW SMC questions to Caltrans

From: **patty mayall**

Date: Thu, Mar 10, 2016 at 5:52 PM

Subject: Urgent: Broadcast Spraying Hwy. 84 SMC, please provide information

To: Bijan Sartipi <bijan.sartipi@dot.ca.gov>, "Silva, Mariela@DOT" <Mariela.Silva@dot.ca.gov>, "Navarro, Gidget R@DOT" <gidget.navarro@dot.ca.gov>

Cc: Senator Jerry Hill <senator.hill@senate.ca.gov>, Joan Dentler <joan.dentler@sen.ca.gov>, Rich Gordon <Assemblymember.Gordon@assembly.ca.gov>, Lennie Roberts <lennie@darwin.ptvy.ca.us>

Greetings Caltrans District Director Sartipi, Ms. Silva, and Ms. Navarro,

Please provide information of the footage area sprayed with herbicides along Hwy. 84, San Mateo County, what herbicides have been sprayed, where and when.

As the work is being done now, residents and the public have a right to know this information immediately. We know that this information is required to be documented by Caltrans.

Along Hwy. 84, (traveling west from Hwy. 35), just west of Old La Honda Road, there is an extensive area (approx. 400 feet) that has been sprayed with herbicides, it is visibly dead and yellow, despite the rain, and the spraying was witnessed by a local resident last week, on Wed., March 2nd, and reported to me.

What she witnessed was the Conservation Corps crew clearing vegetation while directly behind them, 3-4 people (Caltrans crew she believed) in protective gear spraying the roadside area, which is adjacent to MROSD La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve. Rain was in the forecast and did occur the next day, with heavy rains the following days (and now).

This was disturbing to many of us for these reasons:

- The application of any chemicals will be in small areas and by hand or small equipment. **No broadcast spraying.** (from Caltrans' Notice Feb. 10, 2016)
- California Conservation Corps workers were not provided any protection from exposure.
- Rain was in the forecast and did occur the following days. These chemicals will potentially move in the soil and contaminate this watershed area. Spraying was done around a large drain which captures water flowing from that side of the roadway and hillside and then empties to the other side of the road which is the La Honda Creek Watershed area.
- An extensive area being sprayed is beyond the definition of "spot spraying" and is considered broadcast spraying.
- There was no notification warning residents and the public using the roads before, during, or after the application.

Photos will be provided, yet it is most important to receive Caltrans' documentation and explanation of this immediately, please.

Thank you for the work being done on the vegetation clearing and removal, and we commend the work of Caltrans and the CCC. We appreciate these efforts as the most effective for visibility, public safety, and the health of our environment.

Please halt any further extensive herbicide spraying along Hwy. 84 or provide notification of it.

We are still waiting for answers to our questions regarding any broadcast herbicide spraying done on San Mateo County highways by Caltrans for the past year. Given the unclear definition of "spot spraying", we would like that request to include any spot spraying done on SMC highways for the past year.

Thank you for your attention to this request for crucial and immediate information,

Patty Mayall

Director, Protect Our Watershed San Mateo County

www.protectourwatershed.org