



**SF Environment**

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
JARED BLUMENFELD, DIRECTOR

**MEETING SUMMARY**

Public Hearing for 2008 SF's Reduced Risk Pesticide List, 1/14/08, 2-4pm

Rm 421, City Hall, 1 Dr C B Goodlett Pl., San Francisco

**Attending:**

Brian Hill, *PANNA*

Carolyn Cox, *Center for Environmental Health*

Chris Geiger – *SFE*

David Levy, *Laguna Honda Hospital*

Don Thomas, *SFPUC*

Jamie Ray, *SF ROMP Wildlife Rehabilitation*

Jeanette Raye, *SFPUC*

Jessian Choy– *SFE*

Luis Agurto, *Pestec*

Phil Rossi, *SFDPR*

Stuart Dake, *SFIA*

**Agenda**

- I. City departments who have used "Limited Use - Special Concern" pesticide products in 2007, or who have been granted exemptions in 2007, are required to justify these uses at the meeting.
- II. Public review of 2008 SF's Reduced Risk Pesticide List

## Meeting Notes:

- I. **City departments who have used "Limited Use - Special Concern" pesticide products in 2007, or who have been granted exemptions in 2007.** (For detailed information about Exemptions, please refer to the attachment: "Pesticide Exemption Requests")
  - a. **San Francisco International Airport (SFIA)**
    - i. Stu Duke described how SFIA has to maintain the airfield to be weed-free in way that does not create dust. He explained it is not very feasible to mow or weed whack because sometimes it's too wet or the area is inaccessible. FAA regulations require constant, intensive weed management in critical areas of airfield, and it is not safe or practical to due this manually.
    - ii. **Exemption for Contrac All-Weather Blox for rats**
      1. Justification from Stu Duke, SFIA
        - a. SFIA monitors consumption of baits and uses spring traps in areas with rodents
        - b. SFIA does not believe there is a secondary poisoning risk because they take a lot of steps to prevent birds from entering the airport, and due to the recessed location of the treated areas
        - c. Rats pose a serious safety hazard if they come aboard planes – which also results in plane being removed from service.
        - d. SFIA is in difficult position due to existing leases, which result in multiple pest control contractors. They are putting all pest control under SFIA control in new leases.
      2. Public Comment:
        - a. Carolyn Cox thought it might be a good idea if SFO could design buildings to have less nooks and crannies and otherwise prevent pest infestations.
        - b. Jamie Ray was concerned about the use of glue traps by vendors. Stu Duke explained that in some instances they can't use spring traps because he is concerned about pathogens that are spread when spring traps snap.
        - c. Chris Geiger suggested using monitoring blocks. SFIA said it was too labor-intensive to monitor them.

- d. Brian Hill, Director, Science Dept., PANNA suggested perhaps SFO could work on sanitation with employees.
- e. CONCLUSION: SFIA IPM staff will be able to solve most pest problems and provide more comprehensive and holistic pest when each tenant's lease ends. At the end of each lease at different dates, SFIA IPM staff will provide pest control for each tenant.

## 2. SF Dept. of Public Health

### a. Exemption for Top Gun All-Weather Bait Block in DPH-Laguna Honda

- i. Luis Agurto, Pestec saw an influx of mice in May 2007 and started with glue and snap traps. He needed to use two rounds of Top Gun while waiting for the completion of rodent-proofing. There are serious limitations in the use of traps at Laguna Honda wards.
- ii. CONCLUSION: Pest issues should be addressed with landscaping first. Tall grasses should be cut because it is seed grain for the mice.

## 3. SF Dept. of Recreation & Parks (DPR)

### a. Exemption for Vanquish (dicamba) herbicide in Harding Park Golf Course

- i. Phil Rossi, DPR resorted to Vanquish to maintain the city's contract with the PGA Tournament.
  - 1. Carolyn Cox suggested that focusing on growing grass effectively could help outcompete the weeds.
  - 2. Jamie Ray asked if the pesticide use affected the lake. Phil Rossi said DPR hasn't heard from PUC about contaminants in the lake.

### b. Limited Use - Special Concern" pesticides used

- i. WP Turf
- ii. Rootone
- iii. Heritage
- iv. Marathon
  - 1. DPR used on mums and poinsettias so these flowers could be delivered without pests to City Hall.

2. Jamie asked if bio-controls could be used as a prophylactic. Phil said bio-controls don't solve 100% of the problem.
  3. CONCLUSION: Chris Geiger suggested the use of this pesticide could be eliminated if the Mayor could request a moratorium on city department orders for mums, poinsettias, and certain other ornamental plants.
- c. Jamie requested more information on rodenticide use. Phil uses carbon dioxide gas cartridges. He also controls rodents by clearing shrubs and using traps within bait boxes. Eaton's All Weather Bait Block has been used at several city Recreation Centers (Fulton, Douglass, McCauley and Bodecker) with serious rodent problems.

#### **4. SF Public Utilities Commission**

- a. Exemption for Transline for yellow star thistle on Canada Road
  - i. Don Thomas, PUC, said based on a new study of Milestone is more environmentally benign than Transline so he'll use Milestone from now on instead.
- b. Exemption for Pentrabark used with Agrifos for Sudden Oak Death
  - i. It was used prophylactically, and is low risk.

#### **5. Representatives were not present from these agencies. :**

- a. State Coastal Conservancy- Exemption for Habitat (BASF) for invasive hybrid Spartina India Basin. However, this exemption was very well documented through research on least hazardous management options.
- b. SF Dept. of Public Works and/or the Redevelopment Agency- Exemption for Subdue MAXX for palm trees on Mission St.
- c. CONCLUSION: DPW and/or Redevelopment Agency must justify their exemption at a separate public hearing.

## **II. Public review of 2008 SF's Reduced Risk Pesticide List**

- a. No changes were proposed.