

ATTACHMENT A.
San Francisco Integrated Pest Management Program
Policy on the Safe Use of Herbicides

BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Department of the Environment (SFE) has developed this policy for the following reasons:

1. The City seeks to minimize harm from all sources to our workers, citizens, and environment;
2. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently categorized glyphosate (active ingredient in Roundup®) as a “Probable Carcinogen,” and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment has recently categorized glyphosate as a “chemical known to the state to cause cancer under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986;”
3. SFE- together with other San Francisco Bay Area public agencies - has elected to reassess its use of glyphosate;
4. The City & County of San Francisco, in all of its pest management operations, employs an integrated pest management approach that reserves hazardous pesticide use as a method of last resort;
5. SFE acknowledges that there are still some situations where limited use of glyphosate and other herbicides is necessary for the public welfare;
6. Pesticide applicators experience the highest risks from herbicide use.

DEFINITIONS

Alternative treatment options: Physical, cultural or mechanical methods of controlling weeds, including but not limited to manual weed pulling, weed barriers, brush-cutting machines and mowers, and grazing.

Cosmetic purposes: Situations where the control of weeds is desired only for improved appearance, and where lack of control will not result in greater public health hazards, environmental degradation, or denigration of the parcel’s intended use.

Risk: The probability of adverse effects caused under specified circumstances by an agent (or activity) in an organism, a population, or an ecological system. Risk assessments require data on inherent hazards of the agent, known dose-response relationships, and the potential for exposure to the agent.

POLICY

1. SFE will use the following guidelines to determine when use of herbicides is permissible:
 - a. The risk of using the herbicides will be weighed, using the best available science, against the risks of alternative control methods and the risk of no treatment. Our management decisions therefore aim to achieve real risk reduction from all sources, not only from chemical exposures.
 - b. Budget or staffing limitations are not in themselves adequate justifications for herbicide use. In these cases, as part of our work toward long-term herbicide reduction, our staff will develop proposals that estimate the resource needs of using safer alternative methods to attain needed levels of control.
 - c. Use of herbicides for purely cosmetic purposes is not permitted.
2. SFE, together with its other City partners, will take appropriate steps to minimize exposure to applicators and the public in cases where herbicide use is permitted.