

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Certified copy of portion of proceedings, Meeting of October 25, 2022

RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SPRAYING OF HERBICIDES IN THE COUNTY

RESOLUTION NO. 22 - 131

WHEREAS, the application of herbicides may threaten public health by increasing the risk of disease, including cancer in humans; and

WHEREAS, peer-reviewed research has determined that the application of herbicides threatens the environment and environmental health. For example, herbicides have been documented to persist, accumulate and spread through soils and air, impacting soil and crop health; and

WHEREAS, herbicide use is controversial throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the application of herbicide has been an item of public discussion in Humboldt County for decades and local jurisdictions and tribes have exercised their power to limit or regulate the use of herbicides on publicly-owned and tribal lands; and

WHEREAS in 1997, Humboldt County approved a policy urging the California Department of Transportation to discontinue roadside spraying within the county; and

WHEREAS in 1987, Humboldt County adopted an informal practice that continues to this day of using manual methods of weed control and not using herbicides on county roads, right-of-ways, and in county parks and along trails; and

WHEREAS, due to the recent notice from PG&E of possible herbicide use, as well as ongoing use of herbicides by PG&E there is broad and real concerns of harm to private landowners and properties; and

WHEREAS, many Organic farmers are very concerned about herbicide contamination of their crops which could leave their crops and farms unable to maintain organic certifications and sales; and

WHEREAS, Humboldt County respects the property rights of individuals and encourages private landowners to seek the use of manual methods of weed control and avoid the use of herbicides wherever possible, and encourages herbicide use to be minimized; and

WHEREAS, additional clarity on the County of Humboldt's policy concerning the use of herbicides is desirable, and the use of Integrated Pest Management and vegetation management principles are encouraged.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors based on the staff report and having considered all public comments received:

1. Opposes the use of herbicides on private property without the express written consent of landowners (Government Code 6616).
2. Opposes the use of herbicides on county-owned land and right-of-ways unless no other feasible alternative exists.
3. Directs staff to develop an ordinance, in consultation with the community, the Director of Public Works, Director of Aviation and the Agricultural Commissioner, that prohibits the use of herbicides on county-owned lands and right-of-ways unless no feasible alternative exists and is approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Dated: October 25, 2022

Virginia Bass
VIRGINIA BASS, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Adopted on motion by Supervisor Madrone, seconded by Supervisor Wilson, and the following vote:

AYES: Supervisors -- Bohn, Bushnell, Bass, Wilson, Madrone
NAYS: Supervisors
ABSENT: Supervisors
ABSTAIN: Supervisors

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
County of Humboldt)

I, NICOLE TURNER, Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County of Humboldt, State of California, do hereby certify the foregoing to be an original made in the above-entitled matter by said Board of Supervisors at a meeting held in Eureka, California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Board of Supervisors.

Nicole Turner

By NICOLE TURNER
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the
County of Humboldt, State of California