

ITEM NO. 4

Date: 10/20/14
Submitted in APGAR Committee
Council File No: 13-1580
Item No.: 4
~~Item~~ Communication
from the public

October 20, 2014

Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, Recreation Committee
City of Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Committee Members,

We very much appreciate the concern expressed by the Arts, Parks, Health, Aging, Recreation Committee at its April 26, 2014 meeting concerning rodenticide impact on the wildlife, pets, and children in the parks and open spaces in Los Angeles. We, Poison Free Malibu, have been working on this issue in Malibu and the cities surrounding the western extent of the Santa Monica Mountains. The mountains in Los Angeles extending to Griffith Park are one and the same mountain range, and we are grateful for your stewardship of this land. Los Angeles is adjacent to thousands of acres of open space. Modern supertoxic rodent poisons are spreading throughout the ecosystem there causing massive exposure, disease, and death beyond the intended targets.

We strongly support policy against the use of rodent poisons by the City of Los Angeles and encourage the committee at its meeting on October 20 to take strong action mandating that anticoagulant poisons not be used by the Recreation and Parks Department.

We are especially concerned about the increasing reliance we are finding on **diphacinone**. Now that the 2nd generation anticoagulants have been banned for consumers in California as of July 1, some people and institutions are mistakenly switching to diphacinone and other 1st generation anticoagulants. Here are 3 links that gives examples of what scientists are recently finding out about diphacinone's effects.

- Diphacinone is what poisoned the famous Griffith Park mountain, **P-22** in April. Here is a National Park Service statement about it, identifying diphacinone as the culprit:
<http://www.nps.gov/samo/parknews/gp-lion-exposed-to-poison.htm> (3rd paragraph)
- Here is a news video about P-22:
<http://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/04/17/officials-famous-griffith-park-mountain-lion-suffering-from-potentially-deadly-disease/>
- A UCLA scientist has found that **diphacinone** is the main culprit in her study of rodent poisons in bobcats in our area. She discusses this at: <http://www.urbancarnivores.com/laurels-blog/> (2nd paragraph)
- On October 10, 2014 the California Coastal Commission passed the Santa Monica Local Coastal Plan banning **ALL** (1st & 2nd anticoagulants, including diphacinone) from the unincorporated areas of the Santa Monica Mountains Coastal Zone, with the clause: "The use of insecticides, herbicides, **anti-coagulant rodenticides** or any toxic chemical substance which has the potential to significantly degrade biological resources in the Santa Monica Mountains **shall be prohibited, ...**"
See - <http://planning.lacounty.gov/coastal>

- Seven local cities to date - Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, Moorpark, and Ojai have passed resolutions opposing the use of all anticoagulant rodenticides, including diphacinone.

Diphacinone is commonly used to control squirrels. This is entirely inappropriate where wildlife can have access. There are excellent non-poison traps that are known to be very effective. The only advantage of poison is that it removes the squirrel carcass from visibility. But this is just like discarding toxic waste from your yard to your neighbors. The squirrel escapes into the wild before dying, polluting it and the food chain with the poison! To avoid this overt POLLUTION, the squirrel carcass MUST be recovered in any case, therefore trapping is the superior strategy.

We are the only hope for our wildlife, pets, and children. Much of the reaction to the sad news concerning mountain lion P-22 is that we all intuitively realize that it is our responsibility to care for the vulnerable creatures who are our neighbors, and we have not been doing a good job. They cannot speak for themselves but do so silently through their dead bodies that are found with rat poison in them. It is imperative that we do our part to stop the use of poisons and prevent the poisons from killing other wildlife that feed on them.

Your consideration of new policies in this regard is a great step in the right direction.

Sincerely,

Kian Schulman
Poison Free Malibu
EarthFriendlyManagement.com



City of Malibu

23825 Stuart Ranch Road • Malibu, California • 90265-4861
Phone (310) 456-2489 • Fax (310) 456-3356 • www.malibucity.org

June 12, 2014

Re: Use of Anticoagulant Rodenticides at Commercial Properties

The City of Malibu appreciates the products and services your business provides, and the courteous employees that provide them. The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention an issue that is affecting the health of local wildlife.

Certain rodent control methods are threatening the lives of wildlife including bobcats, mountain lions, hawks, owls. Rodent bait boxes/stations are being used in some local shopping centers, but most property owners using this form of rodent control are unaware of the potential harm caused by them. Although considered an inexpensive and effective form of rodent control, bait boxes have been linked to poisoning non-targeted animals. Natural predators eat poisoned rodents which results in the secondary poisoning and death of larger animals, including household pets.

The type of poison most commonly used in bait boxes is an Anticoagulant Rodenticide (AR). Because of the dangers that AR poison poses to pets and wildlife, the City adopted Resolution No. 13-28 which states:

The City Council urges businesses in Malibu to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides, urges all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides on their properties in Malibu and commits the City of Malibu to not use anticoagulant rodenticides as part of its maintenance program for City-owned parks and facilities.

Nearly twenty other California cities, Pepperdine University, and several Malibu businesses have already made this kind of commitment, showing that there are valid alternatives to managing pests without the use of poison. The State has banned consumer use of second-generation AR poisons starting on July 1, 2014. However, that does not include its use by professional pest control companies.

The City invites you to join the movement to protect local wildlife by eliminating the use of AR poisons at your business and welcomes the opportunity to discuss safe alternatives for managing pests on your property. Please review the enclosed brochure about this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Brown
Senior Environmental Programs Coordinator
jbrown@malibucity.org

cc: Vic Peterson, Environmental Sustainability Director
Bob Stallings, Parks and Recreation Director

Enclosure

TRASH CAUSES RATS, TRASH CAUSES MICE

Simple Sanitation Practices

- Close dumpster lids completely **at all times!**
- **Clean up** all **spillage** on the ground
- Watch for **over-stuffed** trash preventing complete closure of lid
- Notify local management of trash overflow **immediately**
- Dumpster lids cannot be pinned to wall preventing closure – notify dumpster company **immediately**
- Lock security gates to prevent unauthorized access to trash area

RESOLUTION NO. 13-28

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MALIBU
OPPOSING THE SALE, PURCHASE AND USE OF ANTICOAGULANT
RODENTICIDES IN MALIBU

The City Council of the City of Malibu does hereby find, order and resolve as follows:

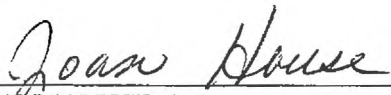
SECTION 1. Recitals.

- A. Anticoagulant rodenticides are poisonous bait products available to the public used to combat the infestation of rodents in business and residential properties.
- B. Anticoagulant rodenticides are used as bait which the rodents ingest, causing lethal internal hemorrhaging.
- C. Pets and wildlife may also become sick or die from ingesting rodenticides directly or due to secondary exposure after consuming the dead or dying rodents.

SECTION 2. The City Council urges businesses in Malibu to no longer use or sell anticoagulant rodenticides, urges all property owners to cease purchasing or using anticoagulant rodenticides on their properties in Malibu and commits the City of Malibu to not use anticoagulant rodenticides as part of its maintenance program for City-owned parks and facilities.

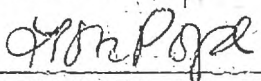
SECTION 3. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED this 8th day of July 2013.



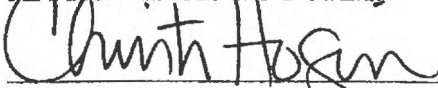
JOAN HOUSE, Mayor

ATTEST:



LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)

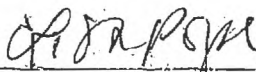
APPROVED AS TO FORM:



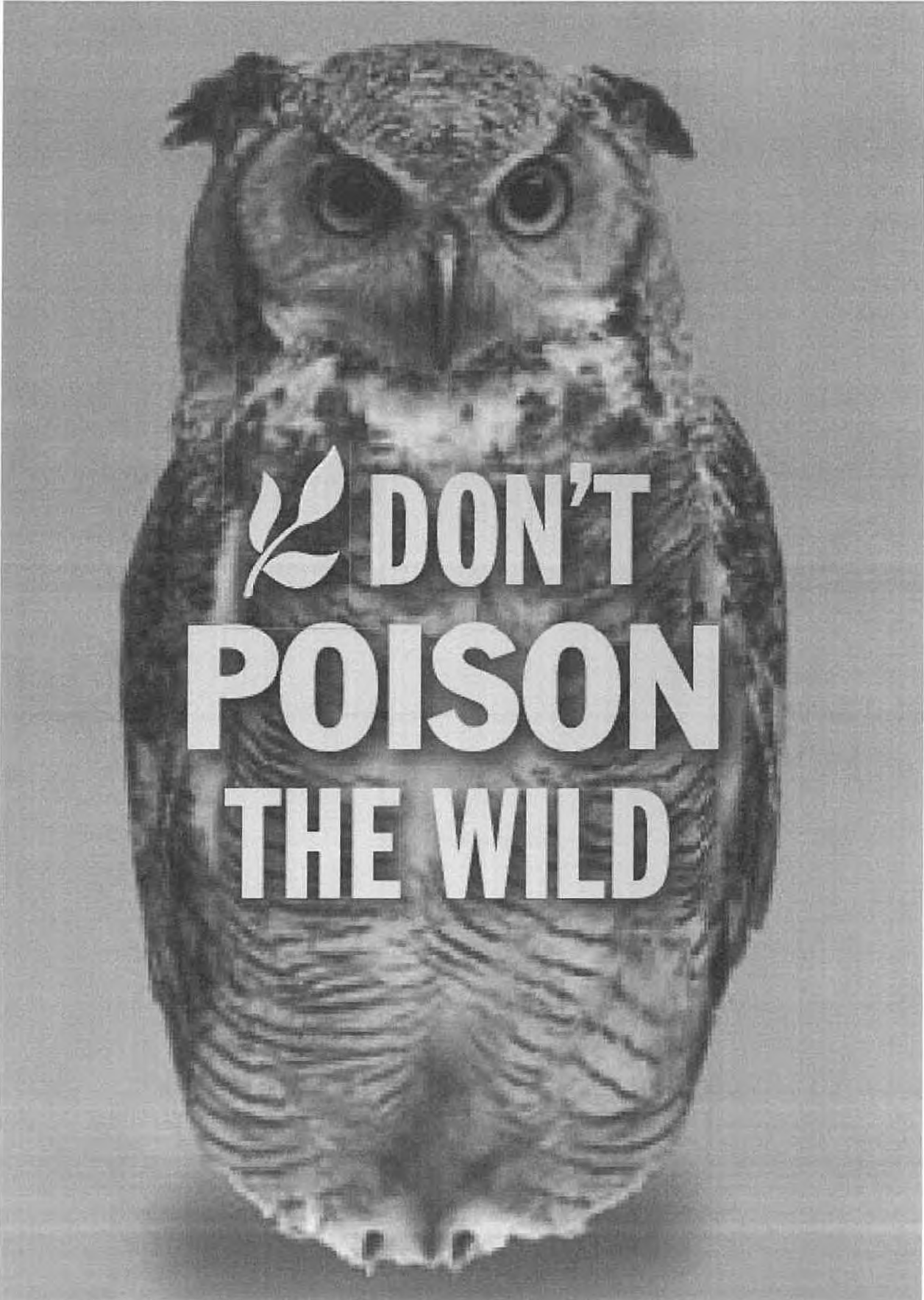
CHRISTI HUGIN, City Attorney

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION NO. 13-28 was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Malibu at the regular meeting thereof held on the 8th day of July 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: 5 Councilmembers: La Monte, Rosenthal, Sibert, Peak, House
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0



LISA POPE, City Clerk
(seal)



 **DON'T
POISON
THE WILD**

Use earth-friendly pest control

www.friendsofgriffithpark.org

Healthy Griffith Park Mountain Lion and
National Geographic Star – P22
Before Poisoning



See video at losangeles.cbslocal.com/2014/04/17/officials-famous-griffith-park-mountain-lion-suffering-from-potentially-deadly-disease

P-22 After Consuming Prey with 1st Generation
Anticoagulant Rat Poison – Diphacinone



Healthy Griffith Park Bobcat



92% of bobcats in 5 Southern California counties were found to have **diphacinone** in their systems.



Same Bobcat One Year Later - Dead

Simi Valley Mountain Lions P3 & P4



Young female cougar, P4, died in late 2004, within two weeks of P3, a male. Biologists attributed both deaths to ingestion of anticoagulant, an ingredient in rodent poison.

P4 Dead from Rodent Poisons



Chain of Death

