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## PUBLIC COMMENT COUNCIL FILE 13-1580

1 message

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**Project Coyote Info** <info@projectcoyote.org>

Mon, Apr 28, 2014 at 1:22 PM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

Dear Council Members,

On behalf of Project Coyote and our Los Angeles constituents, I am writing to you today in an effort to protect wildlife from future exposure to deadly second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (rat poisons). The distribution and prevalence of exposure to these poisons in wildlife species is widespread throughout California. We strongly request the City bans the use of rodenticides known to pose a significant risk to public health and the environment. Rodenticides are toxic products that cause severe health damage and even death in non-target wildlife, companion animals and people. An immediate solution to this problem is critical.

In 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the following statement:

“The second-generation anticoagulants are especially hazardous for several reasons. They are highly toxic, and they persist a long time in body tissues. The second-generation anticoagulants are designed to be toxic in a single feeding, but since time-to-death is several days, rodents can feed multiple times before death, leading to carcasses containing residues that may be many times the lethal dose. Predators or scavengers that feed on those poisoned rodents may consume enough to suffer harm”.

Death from rodenticides occurs slowly over a period of several days, during which the poisoned animals are subject to predators and pets. Wildlife, as well as dogs and cats, face gruesome deaths from these chemicals. Wildlife species impacted throughout California include federally endangered San Joaquin kit fox, coyote, grey fox, red fox, black bear, badger, fox squirrel, Hermann’s kangaroo rat, mountain lion, bobcat, golden eagle, great horned owl, barn owl, turkey vulture, raccoon, opossum, skunk and Canada goose. Research is increasingly showing the dangers of rodenticides to non-target animals. A recent study conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife in Bakersfield showed that 79 percent of endangered San Joaquin kit foxes tested positive to exposure of rat poison. (Please refer to the enclosed article by Sacramento Bee reporter Tom Knudson, *Potent New Rat Poisons Killing California Wildlife*, for more data on the impacts of these poisons.)

Veterinarians are also reporting companion animals are increasingly at risk to exposure. And even humans — especially children — can suffer from contact with rodenticides. More than 10,000 calls to poison control centers are received annually due to accidental ingestion of rat poison by children. These poisons obviously pose risks unworthy of the suffering and biodiversity loss they cause.

While rat poisons may be effective for short-term eradication of rodents, they do not address the conditions that allowed the animals to enter the premises, and the risks of these toxins far outweigh any real or perceived benefit. Alternatives to rodenticide use are available and should be pursued. Prevention is fundamental in practicing safe, nontoxic rodent control. The removal of food sources and harborage through exclusion are highly effective in addressing the problem. In addition, because of food-chain dynamics, the removal of one predator has a greater impact on rodent populations than

eliminating one rodent. One hawk or one owl eats, at least, 2-3 rodents a day, and when feeding a clutch of young, that number multiplies. One family of barn owls can consume more than 3,000 rodents in a nesting season. Similarly, a solo coyote eats 5-7 rodents per day; during pupping season the number of rodents killed to provision a den can increase to 25-30 a day. Where one female rat can have 50-100 young a year, it becomes obvious that killing one predator through secondary poisoning potentially allows as many as 7-10,000 additional rats to persist each year. The tragic irony is that the very species that help control mice, voles, gophers and rats, such as coyotes and bobcats, are the species we are killing with the indiscriminate use of rodenticides.

There is no question, given the well-documented history of the effects of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides on non-target wildlife and the unacceptable risks to humans and companion animals, these toxic and deadly products must be restricted from use by the public. That's why cities across California are increasingly opposing the use of rodenticides, recommending more humane and natural alternatives. Most recently, the city of Davis passed a resolution banning the sale and use of rodenticides, joining a growing number of cities that passed similar resolutions, including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Moorpark, and Malibu. California also took a crucial step toward protecting wildlife by banning residential consumer purchase of rat poisons in effect July 1, 2014.

Thank you for considering a ban on rodenticides within the city of Los Angeles, Project Coyote stands ready to assist you with passage.

Sincerely,

Randi Feilich

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### 3 attachments



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**PC Tagline.png**

29K



**Project Coyote.Letter of Support.Rodenticide Ban.LA City Council.pdf**

338K

**Knudson, T. 2011. Rodent Poison Threat to Wildlife Article Sac. Bee 4.17.11 copy.pdf**

 84K