



Adam Lid <adam.lid@lacity.org>

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## PUBLIC COMMENT COUNCIL FILE 13-1580

1 message

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**Poison Free Malibu** <poisonfreemalibu@gmail.com>

Sat, Apr 26, 2014 at 10:17 AM

To: Adam.Lid@lacity.org

April 26, 2014  
Adam Lid, Public Works Committee  
City of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr Lid,

We very much appreciate the concern expressed by Councilmembers Koretz and LaBonge for 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.

We strongly support the proposed policy against the use of rodent poisons in Los Angeles. Like Malibu, 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.

A rodent dying from poisoning is easy prey. Bobcats, coyotes, hawks, owls, foxes, mountain lions and others easily catch and eat the rodents. They in turn accumulate poison, causing them to bleed internally and die slow and agonizing deaths that can take several days. At least as serious is the indirect death caused by a weakened immune system which increases susceptibility to the disease mange, traffic accidents, and decreased ability to protect themselves, hunt and reproduce.

These are animals that we rely on to do our natural rodent control, and we are poisoning them. By killing the predators we are removing nature's own rodent control system. In addition, these creatures play many important roles in maintaining the balance in the interconnected natural environment that sustains us all.

There are extensive studies with overwhelming evidence of the carnage that rodenticides have been causing nationwide and in our local open spaces. The dire situation in the Santa Monica Mountains was summarized by the National Park Service in a July 8, 2013 letter sent to the City of Malibu –

*“National Park Service scientists have been studying carnivores in the Santa Monica Mountains for almost two decades. Our studies include observations and data collection on bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions. In these studies we have found widespread exposure to and large impacts of anti-coagulant rodenticides on all three of these carnivores. Our research suggests an interaction between anti-coagulant rodenticide exposure and death from mange and mange deaths resulted in the complete loss of bobcats from many open space areas in the Conejo Valley.*

*Our studies have found anti-coagulant rodenticide poisoning to be a leading cause of death for many carnivores. ... In addition, two mountain lions died directly from anti-coagulant rodenticide poisoning in 2004, and in our ongoing mountain lion study we find death from anti-coagulant poisoning to be the third leading cause of death for mountain lions.*

*Our studies also show widespread exposure to these chemicals across carnivores in our region. We found a 90% exposure rate of bobcats to anti-coagulant rodenticides (Riley et al. 2007, Riley et al. 2010), 7 of 8 mountain*

*lions tested had been exposed (Beier et al. 2010), and 83% of coyotes had been exposed (Gehrt and Riley 2010). Moreover, for all of these species, 2/3 of the exposed animals had evidence of 2-5 different rodenticide compounds and sometimes in large amounts, indicating multiple exposure events."*

In reaction, the City of Malibu passed a Resolution specifically opposing rodenticides on July 8, 2013, stating –

“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.”

The cities of Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Westlake Village, Hidden Hills, Moorpark, Ojai, and Whittier (which also borders a large open space) have followed suit, and this campaign is continuing. The County of Los Angeles and the California Coastal Commission have recently passed a new Santa Monica Mountains Local Coastal Program which **totally bans anticoagulant rodenticides** from the unincorporated part of the Santa Monica Mountains in the Coastal Zone! The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has implemented new rules that take effect July 1, 2014 that ban the consumer purchase and use of the worst second generation anticoagulant rodenticides.

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,

Joel Schulman  
Poison Free Malibu