

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: October 30, 2017

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 17-0002-S125
Assignment No: 17-10-1013

SUBJECT: Pesticides containing anticoagulants.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Blumenfield - Koretz) to include in the City's 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1687 (Bloom), which would expand the existing law to include a prohibition of pesticides containing additional specified anticoagulants and would also prohibit the use of a pesticide containing one of those anticoagulants in the State.

SUMMARY

Numerous scientific studies have shown that the use of pesticides containing anticoagulants have a deleterious effect on the health of non-target wildlife, affecting 75 percent of tested animals, and has put endangered species at risk. Using pesticides, such as rodenticides, containing anticoagulants actually prove to be counterproductive to rodent control by poisoning, harming, and killing natural predators that help regulate rodent populations throughout Southern California.

By expanding existing law to specify additional anticoagulants as prohibited, AB 1687 (Bloom) will reduce the amount of nontarget organisms harmed by pesticides, including predator animals, which will in turn help regulate rodent populations. The anticoagulant agents that are proposed to be prohibited by AB 1687 are currently harming prey animals; these animals eat rodents that have been exposed to pesticides containing anticoagulants and end up dying of internal bleeding because their blood can no longer clot.

The Resolution recommends that the City support AB 1687 to expand the existing law to include a prohibition of pesticides containing additional specified anticoagulants.

BACKGROUND

Existing law prohibits the use of any pesticide that contains one or more specified anticoagulants in wildlife habitat areas, while exempting this prohibition for use in agricultural areas. The proposed legislation will include additional anticoagulants on the prohibitory list, and expand the prohibition to all non-agricultural areas in California. Agricultural areas will continue to use rodenticides for the sake of the California agricultural economy.

In 2014, AB 2657 (Bloom), imposed regulations that prohibited the use of what are known as "second generation" rodenticides in certain wildlife areas, which have proven to be ineffective in reducing nontarget organism exposure. The regulations only prohibited rodenticides in wildlife areas, but allowed continued use in other areas, and allowed professional exterminators to continue

to use them. In the years following the implementation of these regulations, nontarget organism exposure to rodenticides, containing specified anticoagulants, actually increased overall. Significant exposure increases were found in two of the anticoagulant agents, and slight exposure decreases were found in the other two.

Overall, a 67 percent increase was found in nontarget organism exposure following the initial regulations, which failed to prohibit the use of pesticides containing the specified anticoagulants. In the Santa Monica Mountains region, over 90 percent of bobcats and mountain lions tested positive for rodenticide exposure. AB 1687 (Bloom) will extend the prohibition, and will prevent exterminators from using pesticides containing the additional specified anticoagulants, along with those already prohibited by the 2014 regulations.

If enacted, the legislation can help to reduce nontarget organism exposure to pesticides containing anticoagulant agents by extending the breadth of the already existing regulations regarding pesticides containing anticoagulants. AB 1687 (Bloom) is supported by Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Project Coyote, and Poison Free Malibu, among other wildlife organizations throughout California. If passed, this legislation would benefit the City by reducing the amount of wildlife and pets exposed to pesticides containing anticoagulants. The Bureau of Sanitation is responsible for the recovery and disposal of dead animals. A reduction in the deaths of nontarget animals would lead to a reduction in City resources expended on the disposal of dead nontarget animals.

BILL STATUS

02/17/17	Read first time. To print.
03/20/17	Referred to Committees on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials, and Water, Parks, and Wildlife.
03/21/17	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Read second time and amended.
03/22/17	Re-refer to Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Read second time and amended.
03/28/17	In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.
04/04/17	In committee: Set, first hearing. Hearing canceled at the request of author.



Tristan Noack
Analyst

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that the use of pesticides containing anticoagulants have a deleterious effect on the health of non-target wildlife, affecting 75 percent of tested animals, and has put endangered species such as the San Joaquin kit fox at risk; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that pesticides actually have a counterproductive effect on pest control by weakening and killing natural predators of rodents; and

WHEREAS, existing law prohibits the use of any pesticide that contains one or more of specified anticoagulants in wildlife habitat areas, while exempting this prohibition for use in agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Assembly, is AB 1687 (Bloom) Pesticides: use of anticoagulants; and

WHEREAS, AB 1687 (Bloom) would expand this prohibition to include a pesticide containing additional specified anticoagulants and would also prohibit the use of a pesticide containing one of those anticoagulants in the entire state, while maintaining the exemption for use in agricultural areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support AB 1687 (Bloom) to ensure the health and well-being of California wildlife by protecting at-risk natural predators from the poisonous effects of pesticides; and

WHEREAS, AB 1687 (Bloom) is supported by Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, Project Coyote, and Poison Free Malibu;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that by adoption of this resolution, with concurrence of the Mayor, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2017-2018 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1687 (Bloom), which would expand the existing law to include a prohibition of a pesticide containing additional specified anticoagulants and would also prohibit the use of a pesticide containing one of those anticoagulants in the entire state.

PRESENTED BY:


BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

