

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: April 9, 2019

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

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 19-0002-S45
Assignment No: 19-04-0323

SUBJECT: Pesticides containing anticoagulants.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt Resolution (Koretz – Blumenfield) to include in the City’s 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1788 (Bloom), which would expand the prohibition of pesticide that contains one or more of specified anticoagulants in wildlife areas, and would expand the prohibition to the entire state; and would also prohibit the use of any pesticide that contains one or more specifically identified anticoagulants on State-owned property.

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 1788 (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 1788 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 1788.

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. 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 1788 (Bloom) would 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, AB 1788 could help to reduce nontarget organism exposure to pesticides containing anticoagulant agents by extending the breadth of the already existing regulations regarding pesticides containing anticoagulants. The legislation is supported by Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife, the Center for Biological Diversity, and Raptors Are the Solutions, along with other wildlife organizations. 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.

DEPARTMENTS NOTIFIED

Department of Animal Services

BILL STATUS

02/22/19	Introduced. To print.
03/18/19	Referred to Committees on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials; and Water, Parks, and Wildlife.
03/19/19	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Read second time and amended.
03/20/19	Re-refer to Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.
03/27/19	From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife (Ayes 6. Noes 2.) (March 26). Re-referred to Com. on Water, Parks, and Wildlife.
04/02/19	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife. Read second time and amended.



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