

## EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT

### BOARD NATURAL CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Meeting of June 12, 2019

TO: Board Natural Cultural Resources Committee

FROM: Robert E. Doyle, General Manager

STAFF REPORT  
PREPARED BY: Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, Deputy General Manager  
Jim O'Connor, AGM, Operations  
Kristina Kelchner, AGM, Acquisition, Stewardship and Design

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Phase-Out Glyphosate Use

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Deputy General Manager, Dr. Ana M. Alvarez, will present for the Committee's consideration a draft Resolution to Phase-Out Glyphosate for Maintenance of Developed Park Areas. The presentation will include a discussion of the estimated costs needed to implement the phase-out of glyphosate (the active ingredient in the herbicide product known as "Round-Up"). Staff requests that the Committee recommend the Resolution to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

#### BACKGROUND

In 1987, the Park District adopted an Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM Policy) which requires that pesticides are used only as a last resort, and states that the program will "eliminate the use of chemicals as much as feasible whenever alternative methods are effective." The Park District has continued to implement this policy with the use of best IPM practices.

Recently, although there is not accepted scientific consensus that glyphosate is a carcinogen, public concern has increased about its safety. To address these concerns, in 2016 the Park District implemented modifications to its IPM practices which focused on early intervention strategies and organic products to manage weed growth in the parks, as an alternative to the use of glyphosate. After two years of implementation (2016-2018), these modifications resulted in a 66% reduction in the total amount of glyphosate used for park maintenance across the Park District.

At the last public meeting of the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee, on April 10, 2019, the Committee members expressed an interest in additional reductions in the use of glyphosate in areas of the parks that are most heavily used by the public. In response, staff recommends furthering these reductions until the use of glyphosate is completely eliminated for maintenance of Developed Areas of parks. As defined in Ordinance 38, the term "Developed Areas" includes: "any public road, lawn or play field, deck, parking lot, picnic area, campground, group camp, concession area, equestrian center, archery facility, gun range, paved multi-use Regional Trail, beach, swim area, swimming pool or any other area specially designated from time to time by the Board as so restricted." (*EBRPD Ordinance 38: Rules and Regulations, Sections 417 and 801.2.*)

The amount of time needed to eliminate glyphosate in these areas will be determined by the resources allocated to implement alternative IPM practices. Preliminary cost estimates for implementation are provided below. These preliminary estimates are based on the best information currently available and would be refined over time as alternative methods are further implemented and actual costs of their use become known. The attached draft Resolution would direct staff to prepare an implementation plan with more complete cost estimates.

The following estimates do not represent a full range of possible approaches to “getting to zero,” but are intended to provide an order of magnitude and a starting place for the Board’s consideration of budget priorities:

1. Estimated labor and equipment costs for full, immediate elimination of glyphosate use in Developed Areas of all parks:

- One-time Equipment Costs:  
Acquisition of Specialized Equipment \$ 4 million
  
  - Annual Labor Costs:  
Conversion of 4 positions from 9 month to 12 month \$ 104,040  
22 new FTEs \$ 2,423,160  
22 weeks of contracted seasonal crews \$ 185,000
- TOTAL ANNUAL COST: \$ 2,712,200

2. Estimated labor and equipment costs for phase-out of glyphosate by Park Unit:

<b>Park Unit</b>	<b>One -Time Equipment Costs</b>	<b>Annual Labor Costs</b>	<b>Total Unit Costs</b>
Delta	\$546,750	\$523,000	\$1,069,750
Shoreline	\$620,890	\$85,600	\$706,490
Interpretive Parklands	\$545,000	\$472,600	\$1,017,600
Parkland	\$690,000	\$223,800	\$913,800
Lakes	\$1,177,500	\$637,800	\$1,815,300
Recreation	\$420,000	\$769,400	\$1,189,400
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,000,140</b>	<b>\$2,712,200</b>	<b>\$6,712,340</b>

3. Weed-abatement by Design Program - conversion of picnic tables and BBQ's to new standards to reduce annual weed abatement staff time and costs, at a cost of approximately \$8,500 per picnic table (which would offset some labor costs over time):

Annual Conversion Costs:

Replace approximately 60 picnic tables per year	\$500,000
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RECOMMENDATION

The General Manager recommends that the Natural and Cultural Resources Committee recommend the attached resolution to the full Board of Directors for consideration.