

# *City Policies Against Pesticides*

## *Cities Against Rat Poison*

### *CARP*

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earth  
friendly  
*Management*

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# Reasons To Get Your City To Pass A Policy



- **Reduce Harm**  
Poisons cause inhumane deaths and pose significant risks to people, pets, and wildlife.
- **Restore Ecosystems**  
Poisons disrupt vital ecosystem functions by degrading habitats and disturbing food webs.
- **Save Money**  
Preventative measures that make poisons unnecessary eliminate the costs of perpetual reliance on them.

# Regulating Pesticides: Questions & Answers



- Why Can't Any City Control the Use of Pesticides?
- Can My City Ban Pesticides?
- Pesticide Bans on City Property
- What is the Legal Status of Pesticides in California?
- State Legislation NOW

## Why Can't Any City or County Control the Use of Pesticides?

- This document, [www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/awn/activist/documents/StatePreemption.pdf](http://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/awn/activist/documents/StatePreemption.pdf), explains how agriculture and pest control industries put through a law preventing localities from regulating pesticides.
- Mendocino County tried to protect their children from being sprayed with herbicides.
  - The agriculture and pest control industries fought Mendocino County all the way to the California Supreme Court and they LOST!
- Then their lobbyists went to the California Legislature and bought a new law, called “Preemption,” to take away the ability of local jurisdictions to control pesticides!

# Can My City Ban Pesticides?

- Banning any pesticide requires removing Preemption.
- We must lobby our politicians to have Preemption overturned. Let's work on this!
- In September 2018 the *League of California Cities*, the organization for all the cities in California, passed a resolution proposed by the City of Malibu to reverse Preemption as it pertains to anticoagulant rodent poisons!
- The resolution is at [www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Policy-Advocacy-Section/Policy-Development/Annual-Conference-Resolutions/2018-Annual-Conference-Resolutions-Final-Report](http://www.cacities.org/Resources-Documents/Policy-Advocacy-Section/Policy-Development/Annual-Conference-Resolutions/2018-Annual-Conference-Resolutions-Final-Report)

## Your City **CAN** Pass a Resolution, EFM, or IPM Policy Banning Pesticides on City-Owned Property

- Example for Anticoagulant Rodent Poisons: July 2013 Malibu Resolution
  - *“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.”*
- Example of Malibu Green Policy banning all pesticides
  - See [poisonfreemalibu.org/policy/](http://poisonfreemalibu.org/policy/)
  - Malibu is pesticide free since 2016 and adopted an Earth Friendly Management policy, EFM, in 2019

## Resolutions From 12 Southern California Cities

*Malibu, Calabasas, Agoura Hills, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village, Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Ojai, Whittier, Laguna Beach*

## Resolutions From 17 Northern California Cities

*Albany, Belmont, Berkeley, Brisbane, Davis, El Cerrito, Emeryville, Fairfax, Foster City, Humboldt County, Marin County, Menlo Park, Portola Valley, Richmond, San Anselmo, San Francisco (City and County), Santa Cruz County*

## Non-Toxic Communities

*Non-Toxic Los Angeles is a group of concerned L.A. residents seeking to end the use of toxic landscaping pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and rodenticide. They have partnered with [Non-Toxic Communities](#) and are working with [Beyond Pesticides](#) to advance this mission.*

# Steps You Can Take For Your City's Policy

- **Request accountability and transparency**  
Contact your city manager and ask for the list of all pesticides the city is using, and that it be put on the city website.
- **Find allies and create a coalition**  
Talk with family, friends and neighbors. Contact local groups such as environmental organizations, community groups, garden clubs, PTA.
- **Create an email list**  
Collect name, email, and home city of allies and have it grow over time for activism alert.
- **Start a petition**  
Starting your own petition is easy!  
Use one of many free petition-hosting sites.
- **Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper**  
Be concise and summarize your position.
- **Contact your city council member**  
Present educational material, with experts in person if possible.  
Ask them to introduce a Policy restricting pesticides.
- **Request the city create an educational outreach program –**  
Pamphlet, website, forums, other publicity.
- **Request your city pass an ordinance requiring dumpsters be closed, locked, and clean**  
Here is a [news article](#) about Malibu's ordinance.



# Key Points of Focus

- **Effective alternatives are available**  
**Repel Exclude Deter** – see **RED** instead of poisons - <https://poisonfreemalibu.org/efm/>  
Garden stores and web-stores stock organic/natural products.
- **Children, elderly, and those with existing health problems**  
Pesticides can adversely effect vulnerable populations.
- **Human Health**  
Pesticide exposure elevates the risk of birth defects, Parkinson's disease, and cancer, among others.
- **Bees, pollinators, and beneficial organisms**  
Pesticides are a key issue in pollinator declines
- **Wildlife**  
Owls, hawks, foxes, coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions and other predators eat the poisoned target rodents and become poisoned in turn
- **Pets**  
Pets are often exposed to pesticides by contact or consumption.
- **Water quality**  
Pesticides can runoff or leach into soils, contaminating groundwater, damaging aquatic life, and putting stress on municipal water treatment plants.
- **EPA registration of pesticides does not equal safety**  
EPA risk assessments are filled with uncertainty and incomplete information.

## What is the Legal Status of Rodent Poisons in California?

- State Legislation AB 2657 in 2014 banned the use of 2nd generation anticoagulant rodent poisons (SGARs) in state parks, wildlife refuges, and conservancies.
- The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) banned consumer use of SGARs in 2014, but the pest control companies, which apply most of the poisons, were exempted! Therefore, as many foretold, the poisoning of non-target wildlife did not abate.
- The CDPR was pressured into beginning a reevaluation of its regulations again in 2018, but this is a long process heavily influenced by the powerful pest control lobby.
- State legislation is the ultimate solution.

## State Legislation

- We have participated in coalitions for four bills to ban rodent poisons starting in 2016
- Currently: AB 1788
- Creates moratorium on second generation anticoagulant rodent poisons until the CDPR process finishes.
- Awaiting governor's signature