

Honorable Alex Lee and Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Chairpersons
Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials &
Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife
1020 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

March 23, 2023

Poison Free Malibu



Dear Chairpersons Lee, Bauer-Kahan, and Members,

Our 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Poison Free Malibu, strongly supports Assembly Bill 1322 (Friedman), *The California Ecosystems Protection Act of 2023*. It aims to place greater restrictions on one of the most dangerous rodenticides causing widespread poisoning of wildlife - first-generation anticoagulant diphacinone.

Our efforts to protect wildlife began in 2013 when the poisoning of mountain lions, bobcats, owls, hawks, coyotes, foxes, and other predator species in the Santa Monica Mountains Recreational Area in southern California was becoming apparent. We worked with local cities and counties to restrict the use of all rodenticides on government property, and to discourage the use by residents and businesses.

A great frustration we constantly encounter from the public is the inability to truly protect our wildlife from this obvious deadly threat with a more general ban. The reaction is disbelief that these dangerous poisons are still legal after the thorough documentation by scientists at the National Park Service, UCLA, the Department of Fish & Wildlife, and others.

We were members of the coalition that achieved legislation AB 1788 that put a moratorium on second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides beginning in 2021. We were disappointed that first-generation diphacinone was not included at that time. It should have been. Furthermore, the Department of Pesticide Regulation failed to even include it in their re-evaluation process until forced by a lawsuit. The research effort led by Dr. Laurel Serieys of UCLA had already established that diphacinone was a major contributor in itself and in combination with the second-generation poisons to mortality and secondary effects degrading the health of predator populations.

This omission will be corrected by AB 1322. Thank you for your efforts in supporting this wonderful legislation that will help to protect our wildlife in California.

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kian Schulman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "K" and "S".

Director, Poison Free Malibu
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