



## USE OF GLYPHOSATE-BASED PRODUCTS FOR WEED ABATEMENT - UPDATE

### Public Works

**Land Use, Sustainability and Resilience Committee**  
May 8, 2023

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## BACKGROUND

1. In April of 2019 the City Manager implemented a temporary glyphosate moratorium
2. In January of 2020 City Staff presented an update to the City Council regarding this moratorium
3. In February of 2021 the City Council approved rescinding the moratorium, allowing the resumption of glyphosate use



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## DISCUSSION

1. What is glyphosate?
  - Systemic herbicide that kills the entirety of a weed, including the root system
  - Commercially referred to as Roundup
  - Same product on store shelves is used by the City
2. Weed abatement is important to maintain a clean, safe and resilient City



Image credit: Roundup.com



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## DISCUSSION

1. The Environmental Protection Agency reviews pesticides / herbicides.
2. Glyphosate / Roundup is approved for use by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner.
3. The EPA has found:
  - No risks of concern to human health from current uses of glyphosate
  - No indication that children are more sensitive to glyphosate
  - No evidence that glyphosate causes cancer in humans



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## DISCUSSION

### 1. The City uses several best practices when applying Roundup:

- Typically applied by hand for spot treatment (use of dye)
- Safe application using vehicle mounted sprayer
- Follow protocol during wind events
- Notification of daycare and schools
- Use of a 1% solution
- Only applied on an as-needed basis



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## OTHER AGENCY PRACTICES

1. City of Irvine: manual and organic removals only, no non-organic pesticides / herbicides allowed
2. City of Menifee: manual removals required for emergency / abatement scenarios
3. Los Angeles County: restricts glyphosate for County departments



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## COST COMPARISON

Material	Material Cost per Acre	Number of Treatments Annually (generalized across the city)	Total Material Costs per Acre (annual, not including labor)
Glyphosate-based herbicides	\$25.06	2-3 times	\$50.12 - \$75.18
Non-glyphosate based herbicides	\$32.48	7-8 times	\$227.36 - \$259.84
Material cost difference per acre			\$177.24 - \$184.66


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## STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

This item contributes to Strategic Priority 2 – Community Well-Being and Goal 2.3: Strengthen neighborhood identities and improve community health and the physical environment through amenities and programs that foster an increased sense of community and enhanced feelings of pride and belonging citywide.

Cross-Cutting Threads

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Community Trust



Fiscal Responsibility



Sustainability & Resiliency



Equity



Innovation


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## RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee receive and file this update from the Public Works Department regarding the use of glyphosate.



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