



## REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

**DATE:** APRIL 13, 2016  
**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
**FROM:** GREG RAMIREZ, CITY MANAGER   
**BY:** LOUIS CELAYA, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER   
**SUBJECT:** APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT – AB 2596 PESTICIDES: USE OF ANTICOAGULANTS

---

The City has received a request to consider a letter of support (attached) for Assembly Bill 2596 (Bloom) Pesticides: Use of Anticoagulants (AB 2596). The request was received from the Poison Free Malibu, a non-profit environmental group. AB 2596, authored by Assemblyman Richard Bloom (50<sup>th</sup> District), was introduced on February 19, 2016 and read for the first time on March 22, 2016. The bill currently resides with the Committee of Environment Safety and Toxic Materials.

AB 2596 seeks to amend section 12978.7 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to pesticides. Existing law prohibits, except as specified, the use of any pesticides that contain one or more of the specified anticoagulants in defined wildlife areas. AB 2596 would expand this prohibition to include pesticides containing additional specified anticoagulants (Brodifcaoum, Bromadiolone, Bromethalin, Chlorophacinone, Cholecalciferol, Difethialone, Diphacinoe, and Warfarin) and would also prohibit the use of a pesticide containing one of the anticoagulants in the entire state. The bill also calls for the imposition of state mandated local programs.

In 2014, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 14-1742, opposing the sale, purchase and use of anticoagulant rodenticides in the City of Agoura Hills. The resolution encouraged businesses and residents to voluntarily stop selling and using anticoagulants because of the secondary effects on area wildlife. As a follow-up to the passing of the resolution, the City mailed approximately 1000 letters to local area businesses encouraging the continued non-sale and non-use of anticoagulant pesticides, while also providing a best management practice informational brochure on how to control pests, and reduce the use of harmful pesticides.

Discussion with staff members from Assemblyman Bloom's office identify that the bill looks to implement statewide prohibition on anticoagulant rodenticides. Currently there is a growing list of supporters for AB 2596, including environmental groups and currently one Las Virgenes Malibu COG city, the City of Malibu. Additional discussions with District staff also identify the bill mandates a local program, a

standard bill language insertion, and the program would not result in increased staff resource cost to address. It should be noted that, as the Bill is in its beginning stages, it is hard to anticipate what impacts a state-mandated local program would entail without any further details. Agoura Hills has demonstrated its support over the years for the environment, via the various projects it has undertaken, such as open space acquisition, creek restoration, etc., and values the impact our wildlife adds to this region. This bill would only expand the additional pesticides to the existing law, while also retaining the right, under the Food and Agricultural Code, to address issues that may arise to address possible pest infestation issues.

Mayor Schwartz currently supports the preparation of a letter for AB 2596 and is looking to the full Council for a consensus. Should the City Council approve the letter of support, staff will then forward the letter to Assemblyman Richard Blooms office and the Assembly Committee.

#### RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the Letter of Support for AB 2596 Pesticides: Use of Anticoagulants.

Attachments: California Legislation Information (Bill Language) – AB 2596  
Letter of Support – AB 2596  
AB 939 Fact Sheet



---

*"Gateway to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area"*

---

March 29, 2016

Honorable Richard Bloom  
State Capitol, Room 3132  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Letter of Support – AB 2596 (Pesticides: Use of Anticoagulants)

Dear Assembly Member Bloom:

On behalf of the City Council for the City of Agoura Hills, I am writing to express our strong support AB 2596, Pesticides: Use of Anticoagulants.

As you are aware, the use of anticoagulants for the purpose of pest control, while well intended, has resulted in secondary effects to existing predatory wildlife. Numerous reports document the secondary poisoning effects on natural predatory wildlife that consume rodents and other pests that have ingested a poison with anticoagulants. The effects of these anticoagulants demonstrate the long term health impacts and suffering on wildlife and domestic pets, that ultimate results in death.

AB 2596 would expand the current prohibition of certain anticoagulants to include additional types of anticoagulants that would be prohibited statewide. Agoura Hills has adopted a resolution encouraging businesses and residents to stop selling or using rodenticide anticoagulants when addressing pest control needs. The City has discontinued the use of rodenticide poison within its pest control program, as it values wildlife in the region, as well as, looks to continue protecting the general health and welfare of the public. AB 2596 will assist in this endeavor. We eagerly await the passage of this legislation and hope the Governor will ultimately sign this bill.

If you have any questions, please contact City Manager, Greg Ramirez, at (818) 597-7311.

Sincerely

Harry Schwarz  
Mayor

cc: City Council/City Manager  
Assembly Committee on Environment Safety and Toxic Materials

# AB 2596 (Bloom)

## First and Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticide Ban

### Fact Sheet

#### PROBLEM

Regulations enacted in 2013 by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to minimize harm from one subset of rodenticides—Second Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides—have proven ineffective because necropsy data performed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and other scientists has demonstrated that unnecessary poisonings continue to pose a rampant threat to wildlife and pets. The use of rodenticides by licensed pest control applicators still allows rodents to consume rodenticides and then poison upper-level predators who consume the rodents themselves, which will result in continued deaths of wildlife and pets. This unintentional poisoning decreases California's ability to control rodent infestations because it kills the natural predators that feed on rats, mice, and other rodents and decreases natural rodent control strategies.

Rodenticides pose an unreasonable risk to children. According to safety calculations from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the estimated child exposure from taking just one 5-gram bite of rodenticide bait greatly exceeds possible safe levels. Between 1999 and 2009, the American Association of Poison Control Centers received reports of an average of 17,000 human exposures to rodenticides each year, with 85% of these exposures, (i.e., approximately 15,000 per year), occurring to children less than 6 years of age.<sup>3</sup> Between 1999 and 2003, an average of 3,617 of these cases per year were treated in a health care facility, and an average of 17 were treated in an Intensive Care Unit.

Rodenticides pose an unreasonable risk to pets and domestic animals as well. Between 1999 and 2009, data indicate that rodenticides caused about 160 severe (death or major effect) domestic animal incidents each year, which EPA believes is a significant underestimate. More than 100 pets needlessly die each year due to rodenticide exposure. Rodenticides also pose an unreasonable risk to wildlife. EPA's ecological incident report documents anticoagulant rodenticide residues in 27 avian species and 17 mammalian species. Poisonings and deaths in California have been documented in numerous species such as eagles, hawks, falcons, owls, bobcats, mountain lions, and even the imperiled San Joaquin kit fox and northern spotted owl. The problem is so severe that over 70% of wildlife tested in California had been exposed to rodenticides.

Fortunately a range of viable, cost-effective alternatives exist that can address the threat posed by rodent infestations. Integrated pest management strategies prevent infestations by sealing buildings and eliminating food and water sources, and are a necessary first step. Lethal rodent control strategies that involve snap traps, electric traps, and other non-toxic methods can then be implemented to address any infestations. Several types of less toxic rodenticides are available as well. More information on effective and affordable alternatives can be found at [www.SafeRodentControl.org](http://www.SafeRodentControl.org).

#### SUMMARY

AB 2596 Does the following

- Bans First and Second Generation Anti-coagulant Rodenticides (FGAR and SGAR)
- Exempts the Agricultural Industry

#### EXISTING LAW

July 1, 2014 the Department of Pesticide Regulation passed a regulation that banned the sell of all SGARs to consumers. Additionally, it required that only licensed exterminators could now use SGARs and set new standards and requirements for the application of SGARs.

AB 2657 (Bloom) bans all use of SGARs in state wildlife areas, state parks and other wildlife sensitive areas. It was signed by the Governor in 2014

#### SPONSORS

Center for Biological Diversity  
Humane Society of the United States  
Raptors are the Solution (RATs)  
Poison Free Malibu

#### SUPPORT

Action for Animals  
Advocates for Malibu Public Schools  
America Unites for Kids  
California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators  
California Environmental Health Initiative  
California Urban Streams Partnerships  
Californians for Pesticide Reform  
Center for Environmental Health  
Citizens for Los Angeles Wildlife  
City of Malibu  
CPR  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Earth Island Institute  
Eastern Sierra Wildlife Care  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)  
Environmental Working Group  
Friends of Harbors, beaches and Parks  
Friends of Santa Clara River  
Friends of Swainson's Hawk  
Fund for Animals Wildlife Center  
Golden Gate Audubon  
Golden Gate Raptor Observatory  
Hungry Owl Project  
Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation  
Malibu Agricultural Society  
Malibu Coalition for Slow Growth  
Malibu Monarch Project  
Mountain Lion Foundation  
Mt. Diablo Audubon  
National Association for Wildlife Emergency Services  
Native Bird Connections  
Ojai Valley Green Coalition  
Pesticide Action Network North America  
Preserver Wild Santee  
Project Coyote  
River Otter Ecology Report  
San Bernardino Audubon Society  
Sequoia ForestKeeper  
Sierra Club California  
Marin County Board of Supervisors  
South Yuba River Citizens League  
The Urban Wildlands Group  
Topanga Association for a Scenic Community  
Topanga Creek Watershed Committee  
Western Alliance for Nature  
Wild Farm Alliance  
Wild Nature Institute  
Wild Nature Institute  
Wildfutures  
Wildlife Care of SoCal  
Worth a Dam

Animal Pest Management Services, Inc.  
Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles  
Apartment Association of Orange County  
Apartment Association, California Southern Cities  
California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers  
Association  
California Chamber of Commerce  
California league of Food Processors  
California Manufacturer's and Technology Association  
California Restaurant Association  
California Retailers Association  
Consumer Specialty Products Association  
East Bay Rental Housing Association  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
North Valley Property Owners Association  
Pest Control Operators of California  
Pet Food Institute  
RISE  
Santa Barbara Rental Property Association  
Scotts Miracle-Pro  
Southwest California Legislative Council

**Version:** 3/31/2016

---

## **OPPOSITION**

American Chemistry Council

---