



May 24, 2023

The Honorable Damon Connolly
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5680
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 99 (Connolly) State Roads and Highways: Integrated Pest Management.
City of Irvine Councilmember Agran – Notice of Support**

Dear Assemblymember Connolly,

As a Councilmember for the City of Irvine, I write in support of AB 99, your bill that requires CalTrans to develop a statewide policy to use integrated pest management (IPM) on state roads and highways. The bill also requires CalTrans to annually report on its website the amount, location, and type of pesticides it used. Moreover, the bill requires CalTrans to provide a 24-hour notice before applying a pesticide on state roads or highways.

The environmental and human health consequences of synthetic pesticides are well-researched and documented. RoundUp™/glyphosate (RoundUp) is a probable human carcinogen and other synthetic pesticides that Caltrans uses are not readily biodegradable, highly toxic to fish, water pollutants, and inhalation hazards. As a state agency, Caltrans is exempt from Proposition 65 notifications and operates with far less environmental oversight than local governments, which allows for the use of toxic substances like RoundUp in areas that flow directly through rural and urban residential communities, where instances of accidental exposure are high.

The City of Irvine continues to implement the Public Works Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program adopted by the City Council in February 2016. The City's IPM Policy promotes environmentally sensitive pest management practices while preserving assets, protecting the health and safety of the public, and City employees. In 2019, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) honored the City of Irvine for its effort to reduce the use of synthetic pesticides to manage pests with the IPM Achievement Award. The Award recognizes organizations that use integrated pest management (IPM) to address the diverse pest management needs throughout California. The City's comprehensive program prioritizes non-chemical pest control methods and is committed to managing municipal landscapes and parks in the most responsible way.

AB 99 will prohibit these dangerous chemicals from being deployed along highways in counties that adopt resolutions banning their usage – ensuring that the City's local environmental protections that our community members have fought for stand strong. For these reasons, I am pleased to offer my support for your AB 99.

Sincerely,

Larry Agran
Councilmember, City of Irvine
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