

LA County Weed Management Area Report on Best Management Practices for Vegetation Management

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Why did we decide to prepare a report on Vegetation Management BMP's

- The LA County WMA supports integrated vegetation management plans
- Growing community concern regarding the use of herbicides
- Conflicting information regarding herbicides
- Growing trend to ban the use of herbicides
- Increased cost to manage vegetation when faced with budget and staffing constraints

How did we start

- Agreed the report should educate individuals, businesses, government agencies, politicians and all types of property owners on all of the currently known methods of vegetation management, effectiveness of each technique, cost, safety, and potential environmental impacts for all methods.

How did we start (continued)

- Agreed the report needed to cover three separate but related topics of integrated vegetation management :
 - vegetation control methods
 - the pro's and con's of each method
 - the sites or types of land use where these methods are suitable.

How did we start (continued)

- Formed a committee to write the report
- Agreed to allow anybody on the committee. We had representatives from; California Dept of Pesticide Regulation, California Dept of Food & Agriculture, Cal Poly Pomona, UC Co-operative Extension, LA County Department of Public Works, LA County Agricultural Commission, Caltrans, USDA Forest Service, Team Arrundo, and Southern Californian's Against Toxin's
- Agreed to disagree

What did we learn

- Both sides believe the reports/studies the others reference are based on bad science
- Both sides have success and failure stories
- Need to make the report based on facts
- California is the most regulated state regarding the use of herbicides
- California Department Of Pesticide Regulation must investigate each incident or report of a problem with pesticides

What did we learn (continued)

- The process was educational
- Most problems with the use of herbicides are due to non-regulated users
 - Private property owners

What were the solutions

- Need to have community outreach and education
- Need to have community input
- Presented options that might be political
 - Pass ordinances that make property owner responsible for vegetation management
 - Create special vegetation management districts
 - Create volunteer opportunities - “adopt a highway”

Where are we at now?

- The report is still in draft format but close to being completed
- Need to decide on best means to perform community outreach/education

If you have questions or would like to contribute information to this report please contact

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