

Dear Supervisor Gjerde,

The Westport MAC urges you and the Board of Supervisors to move forward with stringent and long overdue enforcement of Measure V, enacted by voters nearly 4 years ago. We understand this issue may come up for review as early as April 7, 2020. We are uncertain how public input will be taken in these unprecedented times, but we want to ensure our input is considered.

Based on strong community input over many years, the Westport MAC has gone on record numerous times opposing intentional killing of tanbark oaks in local (Westport region) Timber Harvest Plans. The plans we opposed were all by the Mendocino Redwood Company and involved proposed use of Imazapyr (hack and squirt). The company and regulatory agency (Calfire) were both unresponsive to our concerns about health and fire dangers, with all local plans approved over our objections.

We have tracked the enormous amount of herbicides applied in County forests, as well as their associations with cancer incidence rates. A map showing herbicide applications during the period 1990-2016 is attached for your reference. As you will notice, it shows a very high concentration of herbicide use in the Westport region. The County's agriculture department tracks herbicide use and reports it to the State. We urge the County to use that data for years since 2016 to systematically enforce Measure V.

Irresponsible use of herbicides by timber companies poses an increasing threat from wildfire. The companies should be forced to promptly remove all intentionally killed trees. They have put our communities at substantial risk, continuing to flaunt their disregard with ongoing herbicide applications. This is a matter of great urgency, as the wildfire history of recent years vividly attests.

Thank you for considering our views. Please share this input with the rest of the Board.

~Thad

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chairman
Westport Municipal Advisory Council