

To: County Board of Supervisors and Jim Donnelley, Mendocino County Agricultural Commissioner,

I support the Ag Department purchase of a Weed Technics Steam Machine to control gorse seed and seedling re-sprouts on my property and other properties in Caspar.

I have reviewed the videos and e-mail discussions regarding how the steam machine is used to de-nature gorse seeds on the surface and kill young gorse seedlings.

As a property owner, I would welcome the Mendocino County Ag Department to use the Weed Technics machine they purchase to help me and my neighbors control the noxious weed, gorse, on my property. This reduces my, and the Caspar Communities, financial burden in controlling gorse regrowth.

I see it as one of the alternatives to the use of Garlon or other chemicals annually to control gorse.

I, and many of my neighbors, have participated in the gorse eradication program sponsored by the Ag Department and so ably championed by Helene Chalfin.

If the County Ag Department obtains the steam machine, it can be used by Ag Department personnel on Caspar properties at little or no cost to landowners as a follow - up treatment to kill gorse seeds and seedlings.

Hopefully, with the support of the Board of Supervisors, we can go a long way toward eradication of this highly invasive pest that does not recognize public or private boundary lines.

Thank you for the Board of Supervisors' continued support.

Signed:

Tom Johnson