

glyphosate and surfactants, Bethells Beach

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From: "Max Ventura" beneficialbug@netzero.net

To: kubi.wittenhannah@waitakere.govt.nz

Dear Mr. Witten-Hannah,

I write to you as a researcher having done health surveying of pesticided communities in both Sonoma and Napa, the famous California Wine Country areas, and another area, not well known, Brentwood, as well as interacting and making health problem cluster connections with communities along the California coast, and in the valleys inland where inversion layers trap pesticide toxins both applied in the valleys and drifted in from coastal areas, like soup in a bowl.

We have been in contact with a variety of people around New Zealand particularly since we in California have been assaulted by the U.S. Light Brown Apple Moth pesticide program. We have pointed to the NZ government having recognized that their pesticide assault had created a problem and when they pulled back, the natural predators were allowed to rebuild and do their work in keeping the moth in check. We have, however, been saddened to learn that a glyphosate product and surfactant are in the plans to be used in wetlands near Bethells Beach this week.

We must caution you that there is no safe use of pesticides. The concept of "safe use of pesticides" comes from the pesticide industry. Glyphosate products have a long history of devastation to humans, other animals and aquatic species. Please refer to toxicological profiles on our website page dedicated to glyphosate-based RoundUp and other glyphosate-based pesticides: <http://www.eastbaypesticidealert.org/glyphosate.html>.

From the introduction to this page:

<<Toxicity of Roundup and other Glyphosate Products:

Extensive studies have linked glyphosate, the active ingredient of Roundup and its many generic versions, to cancers, reproductive harm, thyroid disorders, respiratory illnesses, chromosome changes, and many other ailments.

A 1993 UC Berkeley study found glyphosate to be the most common cause of pesticide-related illness among California landscape maintenance workers, and the third most common cause among agricultural workers.>>

Herbicides including glyphosate products are known to damage enzymes specific to the metabolism of pesticide toxins, causing toxic build-up of those very toxins in people's bodies. Hormones in women and men run amok and cause reproductive problems including increased miscarriages. Endocrine systems go awry causing spiking blood sugar and diabetes, thyroid problems both low and high, and amphibia are found malformed, with extra limbs or too few, as is seen with extra digits in humans, or too few.

Surfactants are another significant concern. Synergism between glyphosate and surfactants must be considered as toxicity can be potentiated. RoundUp's surfactant Polyethoxethyleneamine (POEA) is considered three times as acutely toxic as plain glyphosate (Sawada, 1988). Not that the acute effects are which concern us most. We focus on acute effects being an indicator of poisoning but the deeper concern is that of the accumulated effects of toxic poisoning whether life-changing thyroid problems or cancers, reproductive problems or the environmental alteration that occurs when glyphosate products poison soil and water systems.

You don't want to be playing around with nature like this. When there is money for pesticides and licensed pesticide applicators and the health problems which ensue when pesticides are used and exposures cause sickness to both applicators and people exposed to drift or other residues, there certainly is money to pay workers to do healthy work outside doing manual removal if it is believed that pulling vegetation is important.

Thank you for your consideration of the science which for many decades clearly has shown that, a pesticide approach to vegetation management is faulty and likely has stemmed from the pesticide industry's mis-"educating" of the public and municipalities worldwide.

Sincerely,

Maxina Ventura
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Don't Spray California
www.dontspraycalifornia.org