

NCAP

Northwest Coalition for
Alternatives to Pesticides

February 16, 2005

Oakland City Council
City Hall
One Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612



Dear Councilors:

On behalf of the over 2,000 people who are members of the Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, I am writing to encourage the City of Oakland to continue to use alternatives to pesticides and to oppose additional exemptions to the City's Integrated Pest Management Policy.

NCAP is a 27-year-old nonprofit organization that is recognized for providing accurate, up-to-date technical information about pesticide hazards and alternatives practices to people in the Pacific Northwest and elsewhere.

The exemptions to the IPM Policy currently being proposed may seem limited, but we believe that the exemptions miss a fundamental premise of successful integrated weed management. Weed management, in order to be successful in the long-term, needs to focus on creating a stable community of desirable plants. A focus on simply killing unwanted vegetation encourages repeated and increasingly costly herbicide use. The exemptions being considered are focused on killing the target species instead of restoring a desirable plant community.

NCAP encourages the City of Oakland to continue to make use of the many successful techniques for managing invasive plants that do not rely on toxic chemicals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Caroline Cox".

Caroline Cox
Staff Scientist

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