

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-15(a)**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND  
IMPLEMENTING A PILOT PROGRAM TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF PESTICIDES IN  
WEED ABATEMENT ACTIVITIES**

---

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted an Integrated Pest Management Ordinance (IPM) as Richmond Municipal Code (RMC) section 9.48 in July 2012 to guide the work of city departments tasked with weed and pest control;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council adopted the IPM to ensure that cultural, mechanical, and biological pest control methods are employed before toxic pesticides are introduced into the environment;

**WHEREAS**, the IPM bans the use of any pesticides containing organophosphates or carbamates as listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and bans any pesticide that is a known carcinogen as listed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;

**WHEREAS**, RMC section 9.48.030(C) allows the city's IPM coordinator to approve an exemption to use a banned pesticide in an effort to support the eradication of invasive or noxious weeds;

**WHEREAS**, Richmond residents are concerned that RMC section 9.48.030(C) is a de facto loophole in the law, and that city employees have used RMC section 9.48.030(C) to continue to use pesticides, and that city employees have sprayed hundreds of gallons of pesticides in parks, recreation areas, roadways, public areas, and community venues over the last three years;

**WHEREAS**, several of the pesticides being used by city departments tasked with weed and pest control contain the toxin glyphosate, including Rodeo, Aqua master, and Accord;

**WHEREAS**, there is documented evidence that exposure to glyphosate causes birth defects, fetal deaths, cancer, DNA damage, and other serious illnesses;

**WHEREAS**, there is no safe dose of exposure to glyphosate because it persists in soil, water, and animal tissue for prolonged periods of time, so even low levels of exposure could still be harmful to humans, animals, and the environment;

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to implement a twelve month pilot prohibiting city employees and their contractors from using pesticides as defined in RMC section 9.48.010(H);

**WHEREAS**, the City Council wishes to receive a report that details, among other things, how much more expensive and labor intensive it is to not use pesticides.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Richmond, that beginning on the effective date of this resolution, that all weed abatement activities conducted by the city employees and their contractors shall not involve the use of any pesticides as defined in RMC section 9.48.010(H);

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Council, the City Manager, and the IPM coordinator shall not grant any exemptions to allow the use of pesticides in the eradication of invasive or noxious weeds, as contemplated under RMC section 9.48.030(C) during the pilot;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all purchases by the city of pesticides shall end immediately and any remaining stock of pesticides shall be disposed immediately following the city's hazardous waste disposal protocols;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that city staff from the Environmental and Health Initiatives Division within the City Manager's Office, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and the Finance Department, shall produce a report to the City Council evaluating the impacts on cost and weed control; the efficacy of non-chemical methods including weed burners, mowing and line trimmers, vinegar, goats and other non-chemical methods; and

attitudinal changes of residents towards pesticide use and weed control;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the report shall be due to the Richmond City Council upon the conclusion of the pilot;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Manager's Office prepare and disseminate information to educate Richmond residents and businesses about the harmful effects of using toxic pesticides such as those containing glyphosate;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City of Richmond will encourage the West Contra Costa Unified School District to join this prohibition on pesticides containing glyphosate, and calls on the West Contra Costa Unified School District to educate employees, students, and parents about the harmful effects of using toxic pesticides such as those containing glyphosate;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this prohibition on the use pesticides shall continue until the City Council decides further action;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution becomes effective immediately upon approval by the Richmond City Council;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that city staff shall immediately notify all contractors performing weed abatement activities for the city of the prohibition on pesticides;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that city staff shall use all feasible and affordable means at its disposal, including PSAs on KCRT, to alert residents about the city's decision to end its use of pesticides, and to encourage residents to follow the city's example.

\*\*\*\*\*

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting thereof held on February 24, 2015, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmember Bates, Beckles, Martinez, McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Myrick, and Mayor Butt.  
NOES: None.  
ABSTENTIONS: None.  
ABSENT: None.

DIANE HOLMES  
CLERK OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

(SEAL)

Approved:

TOM BUTT  
Mayor

Approved as to form:

BRUCE GOODMILLER  
City Attorney

State of California            }  
County of Contra Costa        }       : ss.  
City of Richmond               }

I certify that the foregoing is a true copy of **Resolution No. 19-15(a)**, finally passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Richmond at a special meeting held on February 24, 2015.