

November 4, 2009

To: Glen Cove Nature Area Neighbors and Users

From: Greater Vallejo Recreation District

Re: Use of Herbicides at Glen Cove Nature Area

Some neighbors have been very concerned about the pending use of herbicides to control invasive trees and plants at Glen Cove Nature Area. GVRD and its consultants and contractors want to make sure everyone is fully informed about what is intended, why, and that environmental and public safety issues have been thoroughly addressed. These are the facts:

The non-native plants are taking over. Many of the plants on the site – elms, acacias, Lombardy poplars, Tree-of-Heaven – are imported from other continents China, Africa, and Europe. They are able to crowd out the native plants, and have completely taken over the central part of the site. They will spread to the entire site and adjacent open space, State Park, and private properties over the coming years unless they are controlled.

Herbicides are necessary to manage these plants. Decades of studies and efforts to control these and similar invasive plants have shown that the use of herbicides, along with physical clearing, is the only effective means of control. Simply cutting them back causes them to re-sprout and spread even more profusely. Digging them up isn't an option in the sensitive cultural resources area. Garlon 4 and Glyphosate (Round-up) are some of the chief tools in the management of invasive species across the nation and around the world, and are typically used by the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and many other agencies and organizations engaged in battling invasive exotic plants, including organizations that are highly concerned about environmental health. For example the Nature Conservancy's [Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health](#) provides information and examples of such herbicide use, including these specific chemicals, at www.invasive.org/

The herbicides when used properly are safe for the public and the environment. These chemicals are certified as safe for use in these settings through extensive test programs established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the methods for when and how the materials are applied are carefully proscribed by federal and state regulations. A state licensed Pest Control Advisor is a part of the contractor's team for this project, and has designed the specific rates and methods of application to comply with all regulations and standards, and direct the chemicals specifically where they will have the most impact on the plants, and the least potential for impact on the public or the environment.

The flyers posted by concerned neighbors ask – will our children and pets be safe? The answer is YES, but to be sure we need to keep people out of the treatment area for the designated period of time. There will be NO IMPACT on water supply (water supply is piped in from distant points in any case). The materials will not migrate into the water table, and will have no significant impact on the creek habitat or the estuary habitat of the Carquinez Strait.

GVRD has fully involved the public and followed procedures. Use of these herbicides was specifically detailed in the Master Plan and addressed in the Environmental Impact Report for the site, which were reviewed through an extensive series of public workshops and meetings leading to adoption in September, 2007. These documents have been and are on GVRD's web site at www.gvrd.org, along with additional information about the herbicide use. No treatment or removal of vegetation near the creeks or along the shoreline will occur until GVRD obtains a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). The project was reviewed on site with the local DFG warden in October to verify this.

**For more information, contact Steve Pressley, Maintenance & Development Manager
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