



Pacific Palisades Community Council

May 20, 2024

Attn:

Hon. Councilwoman Traci Park, Councilmember LA City Council

Kristen Ly, project manager, BOE

Cc: Richard Fisher, Robert Buenrostro, Sonya Young-Jimenez

Via email

Re: Halt the use of Cheetah Pro herbicide in and around Potrero Canyon Park

Dear Councilwoman Park, City Engineer Kristen Ly and RAP maintenance Supervisor Robert Buenrostro,

PPCC, through the authority of the Executive Committee, is now formally asking for the use of Cheetah Pro to be halted until we learn more about the appropriateness of its use at the George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon.

We have reason to believe that there were ignored health warnings when the decision was made to use Cheetah Pro as a safe herbicide at Potrero Canyon Park. These include inhalation risks that weren't communicated (especially since there are recreational areas for kids, upwind), there was a failure to close off areas as recommended by the product manual, for a 12-hour post-application period, and the compound was applied directly to areas where water surfaces are present - namely the riparian corridor of the park leading to the ocean.

Furthermore, the location of the GW Park at Potrero Canyon has environmental significance as a Habitat Restoration Corridor leading to the ocean. Herbicides and pesticides should be avoided. Some of the elements contained in Cheetah Pro specifically are known to be harmful to aquatic ecosystems. These include Glufosinate-ammonium, which expressly should not be used near water and is known to be harmful for use around water. Its use is not approved in CA at locations that are close to water or wildlife food plots (both of which characterize Potrero Canyon Park).

There are other concerns rooted in community safety. These include the unique coastal landscape and plantings at Potrero Canyon Park, as well as the overall impact of herbicides on soil, air and water.

There are also significant application issues. Cheetah Pro is intended for directed (spot) spray applications. But it appears to have been broadly sprayed at Potrero Canyon. As images as well as the attestation of rim residents near the sprayed area show, this application has destroyed native plants, green space, and harmed the Park's (deliberate) biodiversity.

There are also lingering health and environmental risks, which include concerns over airborne spurs and/or groundwater contamination. There is the enduring risk to pets particularly with repeated use and bioaccumulation. Cheetah Pro also inhibits the natural ability of plants process nitrogen, creating toxic below ground secretions that raise watershed concerns.

These are all elements of alarm that point to *reconsidering the use of Cheetah Pro* and looking for another, less toxic compound, to use effectively at Potrero Canyon. Until then, the use of this particular herbicide must be halted.

Please confirm that *Cheetah Pro will not be used again at Potrero Canyon until we have made a collective decision regarding its permissible use in this location. It may not be used again in May, as planned.*

Best,

Maryam Zar, *President*

Executive

Sue Kohl, VP

Jenny Li, Treasurer

Beth Holden-Garland, Secretary

Chair emeritus, David Card

Elected Representative: Joanna Spak

Appointed Representative: John Padden

Committee: