



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
401 West Hillcrest Drive
Thousand Oaks, California 91360-4207

In reply refer to:

July 8, 2013

Honorable Joan House, Mayor
Honorable Council Members
City of Malibu
23825 Stuart Ranch Road
Malibu, CA 90265

Dear Mayor House and Council Members:

Unfortunately due to other commitments, we will not be able to send a National Park Service representative to this evening's city council meeting. In lieu of our attendance, we are sending this statement regarding the proposed rodenticide ban that is on your agenda this evening.

National Park Service scientists have been studying carnivores in the Santa Monica Mountains for almost two decades. Our studies include observations and data collection on bobcats, coyotes, and mountain lions. In these studies we have found widespread exposure to and large impacts of anti-coagulant rodenticides on all three of these carnivores. Our research suggests an interaction between anti-coagulant rodenticide exposure and death from mange and mange deaths resulted in the complete loss of bobcats from many open space areas in the Conejo Valley.

Our studies have found anti-coagulant rodenticide poisoning to be a leading cause of death for many carnivores. Specifically, we found over a nine-year study that 27% of coyotes were directly killed by anti-coagulant rodenticide poisoning (Riley et al. 2003, Gehrt and Riley 2010), making it the second leading cause of death for these animals after vehicles. For bobcats, the interaction between rodenticide exposure and serious mange disease is a large impact with a total of 19 bobcats dying from mange disease over a three-year period and this severe mange disease showing a strong association with anti-coagulant rodenticide exposure (Riley et al. 2007). In addition, two mountain lions died directly from anti-coagulant rodenticide poisoning in 2004, and in our ongoing mountain lion study we find death from anti-coagulant poisoning to be the third leading cause of death for mountain lions.

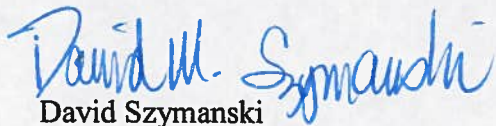
Our studies also show widespread exposure to these chemicals across carnivores in our region. We found a 90% exposure rate of bobcats to anti-coagulant rodenticides (Riley et al. 2007, Riley et al. 2010), 7 of 8 mountain lions tested had been exposed (Beier et al. 2010), and 83% of coyotes had been exposed (Gehrt and Riley 2010). Moreover, for all of these

species, 2/3 of the exposed animals had evidence of 2-5 different rodenticide compounds and sometimes in large amounts, indicating multiple exposure events.

These studies suggest that these compounds are having impacts on the wildlife of the Santa Monica Mountains and surrounding areas. We hope this information will be useful to you as you consider whether to implement a ban on anticoagulant rodenticides within the City of Malibu.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



David Szymanski
Superintendent

cc: Jim Thorsen, City Manager, City of Malibu