



PORTOLA SPRINGS™

November 30, 2018

Dear Homeowner(s):

The Portola Springs Community Association makes every effort to ensure resident feedback and concerns are promptly addressed. In accordance with this commitment, several homeowners raised concerns about the possible use of glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, as part of our community landscape maintenance program.

Before any changes to our landscape maintenance approach are considered, we felt it important to solicit feedback from homeowners; as any changes to the use of synthetic chemicals in maintaining the extensive community parks and greenspaces will impact costs/dues and the overall aesthetic appearance of the community.

There are three landscape management approaches for consideration.

- **Current landscape maintenance program**

The current program focuses on long-term prevention and suppression of pests and invasive plants through resistant plant varieties and active management. Insecticides and herbicides are used in a limited fashion and in ways that minimize human contact.

- **Fully-organic maintenance program**

This option completely eliminates the use of synthetic insecticides and herbicides. Within communities that have implemented this approach, there has been an increase in landscape maintenance labor costs that have led to an increase in association assessments (for Portola Springs, this would yield an assessment increase between 7 and 10 percent).

Also, weeds and invasive grass species become more prevalent in all turf and planter areas. Full organic fertilizers also have a strong odor.

- **Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)**

IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests through a combination of techniques such as biological control, resistant plant varieties, and habitat changes. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed, as detailed in the attached Pest Management Policy.

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Any changes to the association landscaping maintenance program will only affect common areas owned by the association, such as community parks, slopes and entry monuments. Most common areas surrounding your homes are owned and maintained by the individual sub-associations and not the Portola Springs Community Association and will not be affected by any maintenance changes.

Please provide your feedback via the following link no later than December 10, 2018:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/psorangicmaintenance>

The Board will consider the results of this survey at its next meeting in December. Community feedback is a very important part of ensuring the unmatched quality of life available at Portola Springs. Your feedback counts!

Sincerely,

Kara Foley, CMCA, AMS, PCAM

General Manager

kfoley@keystonepacific.com

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Proposed Portola Springs Community Association Pest Management Policy

The Portola Springs Community Association will focus on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems with minimum impact on human health, the environment, and non-target organisms with limited use of pesticides as follows:

1. Parks and Other Areas Where Children, Members and the General Public May Congregate

- a. When economically feasible, utilize manual methods to control weeds and other pests
- b. When pesticides are needed, utilize only organic pesticides

2. Parkways immediately adjacent to residential dwellings

- a. When economically feasible, utilize manual methods to control weeds and other pests
- b. Use organic pesticides first, when pesticides are needed
- c. Use Clean Water Act allowed pesticides if organics do not resolve pest problem
- d. Use EPA Level III "caution" label pesticides only when Clean Water Act pesticides do not resolve pest problem
- e. Use EPA Level II "warning" label pesticides, Roundup or Speedzone only when EPA Level III pesticides do not resolve pest problem
- f. Use EPA Level I "danger" label pesticides only when EPA Level II pesticides, Roundup or Speedzone do not resolve pest problem, and only if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss by a licensed pest control adviser

3. Facilities / Buildings

- a. Use organic pesticides first, when pesticides are needed
- b. Use Clean Water Act allowed pesticides if organics do not resolve pest problem
- c. Use bait formulations of insecticides where appropriate, at the discretion of the pest management contractor
- d. Use EPA Level III "caution" label pesticides only when Clean Water Act pesticides do not resolve pest problem
- e. Use EPA Level II "warning" label pesticides, Roundup or Speedzone only when EPA Level III pesticides do not resolve pest problem
- f. Use EPA Level I "danger" label pesticides only when EPA Level II pesticides, Roundup or Speedzone do not resolve pest problem, and only if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss by a licensed pest control adviser

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4. Approvals and Notifications of Chemical Pesticide Application

- a. All Water Quality Act, EPA Level pesticide, Roundup or Speedzone applications must be approved prior to their application by the General Manager and a majority of the Board of Directors. This may be documented in meeting minutes, email format, or other suitable method. The chemical name, application date and application area must be documented.
- b. Chemicals shall only be applied by persons possessing a valid California Qualified Applicator license/certificate, or a Structural Pest Control License. Application shall be in strict accordance with all governing regulations. Records of operations shall be kept per the California Department of Pesticide Regulations, or the California Structural Pest Control Board.
- c. Posting of signs shall be required at all facilities and areas when any application of EPA level pesticides, Roundup or Speedzone is performed at least 24 hours prior to and 48 hours after spraying applications. The vendor's contact information, chemical name and application date must be listed.

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