

## Pesticide-Free Anchorage Ordinance Talking Points

- Pesticides impact the health of fish, wildlife, and people
  - These effects include adverse neurological, endocrine, immune, reproductive, and developmental health outcomes in wildlife and people.
  - Pesticides also affect wildlife that is not specifically targeted, for example vital pollinators such as bees.
  - Many registered pesticides are classified by the US EPA as carcinogens.
  - Adverse health effects associated with pesticide exposures include:
    - Adverse birth outcomes, including pre-term birth, low birth weight, congenital defects
    - Pediatric and adult cancers
    - Neurobehavioral and cognitive deficits
    - Asthma
    - Autism
    - Lower IQ
    - Attention deficit/ hyperactivity disorder
    - Birth defects
    - Early puberty
    - Obesity
    - Diabetes
  - **Extremely low levels of pesticide exposure can cause significant health harms, particularly during pregnancy and early childhood.**
  
- Pesticides harm salmon and salmon habitat, including:
  - Direct mortality;
  - Impairs swimming ability;
  - Increases predation;
  - Harms immune system;
  - Disrupts hormonal system;
  - Affects vegetative cover and habitat.
  
- **Goals of the ordinance:**
  - To protect environmental and public health
  - To establish and codify a positive, healthy and **precautionary approach** that focuses on long-term prevention of pests and their damage.
  
- **Why do we need this ordinance?**
  - Current pesticide registration protocols and regulations under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and State of Alaska are **outdated** and

**not reflective of the latest science, and leave gaps in the protection of public health**, especially children.

- o Pesticide regulations are not adequately protective
- **Federal:** The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) regulates the registration, sale, and use of pesticides and is administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
  - o Toxicity studies do not include assessment of serious and long-term health impacts that have been linked with pesticide exposure
  - o Pesticides can remain on the market for years while being tested and reviewed.
  - o Exposure limits are determined by the pesticide manufacturers
  - o Scientific understanding about the health effects of pesticides have led to restrictions or cancellation of registration, although these actions come after decades of harmful use.
    - For example: chlorpyrifos, a widely used insecticide cancelled for indoor uses in 2001 because studies documented that pre-natal and early life exposures are associated with poor birth outcomes and long-term neurodevelopmental harm. Chlorpyrifos was being used in the Anchorage School District prior to this restriction.
  - o Combinations of pesticide active ingredients are not tested for synergistic or additive effects.
  - o The problem with “inert” ingredients:
    - These are ingredients that are deemed ‘inactive’ for the purpose of the pesticide, however may make up more than 90% of a pesticide formulation
    - The EPA does not require disclosure or evaluate the toxicity of inert ingredients despite the EPA stating that inert ingredients may be chemically active and toxic to humans (U.S. EPA 2002).
- **State:**
  - o 2013: the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) adopted new regulations that eliminate the requirement for a state agency to obtain a permit from ADEC to spray herbicides or pesticides on state lands and rights-of-way.
    - **This change also eliminated the public’s right to participate in the decision-making process.**
- **Local:**
  - o 2000: the Anchorage School District enacted a least toxic pest management policy that has been effective in significantly reducing pesticide use.

- o 2004: the Municipality of Anchorage passed an ordinance that enhanced notification and accessibility of information about pesticide use in public areas.
  - It requires notification about outdoor pesticide applications by applicators and/or the Municipality.
  - This includes a requirement for notification at least 48 hours prior and remaining in place for 48 hours following a pesticide application