

**AUBURN AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT MEETING OF THE  
PROGRAM, PERSONNEL, POLICY, FEE & LEGAL REVIEW COMMITTEE AGENDA**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2019, 1:00 PM**

**CANYON VIEW COMMUNITY CENTER  
471 MAIDU DRIVE, AUBURN, CA 95603**

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the District after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's Office at 471 Maidu Drive, Auburn, CA 95603. In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Clerk at (530) 537-2187. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Holbrook \_\_\_\_\_ Ainsleigh \_\_\_\_\_

**2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA REVIEW, CHANGES AND APPROVAL**

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT – This is the time wherein any person may comment on any item not on the agenda within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee Chairperson, please state your name and address for the record (optional). There is a time limitation of three minutes.**

**4.0 BUSINESS**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes from the October 23, 2019 Program, Personnel, Policy, Fee & Legal Review Committee Meeting**

**Recommendation:** Review and approve minutes.

**4.2 Banning Neonicotinoid Pesticide Use in ARD Parks**

Shall the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (ARD) ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in its parks?

**Discussion Items:** None.

**5.0 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE PROGRAM, PERSONNEL, POLICY & FEE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

None.

**5.1 PENDING ITEMS REQUIRING MORE DETAILED RESEARCH**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

AUBURN AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT  
This agenda is hereby certified to have been posted as follows:

11-8-19  
Date

2:00 PM.  
Time

P. Larson  
Secretary to the Board

**Auburn Area Recreation and Park District  
Minutes  
of the Program, Personnel, Policy, Fee & Legal Review Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 3:00 PM  
Canyon View Community Center  
471 Maidu Drive  
Auburn, CA 95603**

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Program, Personnel, Policy, Fee & Legal Review Committee was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Directors Holbrook and Ainsleigh were present.

**2.0 ANNOUNCEMENTS, AGENDA REVIEW, CHANGES AND APPROVAL**

The agenda was approved by the Committee.

**3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT- This is the time wherein any person may comment on Any item not on the agenda within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Committee. After you are recognized by the Committee Chairperson, please state your name and address for the record (optional). There is a time limit of three minutes.**

None.

**4.0 BUSINESS**

**4.1 Approval of Minutes from the August 21, 2019 Program, Personnel, Policy, Fee & Legal Review Committee Meeting**

The minutes from the August 21, 2019 Program, Personnel, Policy, Fee & Legal Review Committee meeting were reviewed and approved by the Committee.

**4.2 New Memo of Understanding Between ARD and the City of Auburn**

The Auburn City Manager, Bob Richardson was present at the meeting. The Committee reviewed the new Memo of Understanding Between ARD and the City of Auburn with modifications that were implemented. The Committee forwarded the Memo of Understanding to the Board of Directors with a split recommendation with Director Holbrook approving the modifications and Director Ainsleigh requesting other modifications to be added.

**4.3 CalPERS Change in ARD's Medical Benefit Contributions**

The Committee reviewed the CalPERS change in medical benefit contributions and forwarded it to the Board of Directors with a positive recommendation.

**Discussion Items:** None.

**5.0 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT FUTURE PROGRAM, PERSONNEL, POLICY, FEE & LEGAL REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Director Ainsleigh requested that the Policy Committee consider a policy banning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

**5.1 PENDING ITEMS REQUIRING MORE DETAILED RESEARCH**

None.

**ADJOURNED**

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## **Item 4.2 Cover sheet – Banning neonicotinoid pesticide use in ARD Parks**

Auburn Area Recreation and Park District November, 2019

### **The Issue**

Shall the Auburn Area Recreation and Park District (ARD) ban the use of neonicotinoid pesticides in its parks? Director Ainsleigh has requested that this item be considered.

### **Background**

Neonicotinoid pesticides are used commercially in crops and in gardens. They are especially effective against sucking pests (such as aphids), but also chewing insects. These pesticides can also harm pollinators and non-target animals. More information on these pesticides is provided in the attached article from Chemistry World.

Neonicotinoid pesticides are not currently used by ARD or its contractors. Perhaps the most common place that we would ever use neonicotinoid pesticides is to destroy grubs in sports field turf. Railhead Park has been the site of 2 – 3 grub infestations in the past 10 years. These infestations attract skunks, who rip up the field in attempt to get to the grubs. The last grub infestation at Railhead Park was 5+ years ago.

### **Recommendation**

Discuss and provide direction for staff.

ARD's pesticide consultant stated that neonicotinoid pesticides are safe if used following label instructions. One thing for ARD to consider is by using Merit (neonicotinoid) to treat for grubs and aphids we are able "reduce the need for multiple pesticide sprays" as the article points out. It should be noted that using pesticides is always a last result for ARD and we do not use any insecticides presently for turf or ornamental shrub/plant purposes.

### **Fiscal Impact**

Unknown at this time

### **Attachments**

Chemistry World article on neonicotinoid pesticides

## Article from Chemistry World

March 24, 2018

The latest on the concerns raised about the pesticides' impact on bees

Last month the [European Food Safety Authority \(EFSA\)](#) concluded that certain neonicotinoids used on farms and gardens can harm honeybees, bumblebees and solitary bees. So why are the controversial insecticides still popular, how do they work and why they are of concern?

### What are neonicotinoids?

---

First applied commercially in the 1990s, 'neonics' are among the most popular insecticides in the world. They are coated onto crop seeds and – being water soluble – taken up and dispersed throughout the plant. Sometimes they are sprayed onto foliage. They are especially effective against sucking pests (such as aphids), but also chewing insects.

### Why are they so widely used?

---

Treating seeds with neonics can protect seedlings for up to 10 weeks, a vulnerable stage in their lives. This also reduces the need for multiple pesticide sprays. When neonics were introduced, carbamates, organochlorine and organophosphorus compounds dominated the market: these were not very selective and toxic to mammals. The newcomers were viewed as safer and more efficient.

### So how exactly do they work?

---

Like nicotine, neonics work by binding to nerve cell receptors that usually respond to the neurotransmitter acetylcholine. At high doses, neonics over-excite neurons, which can lead to epileptic-like effects, cell death or nerve cell inactivation. At lower levels, normal neuronal function is impaired. It is suspected that this is how bees are harmed. After repeat exposure, target nerve cells become more vulnerable and toxicity to insects increases.

### What did the EFSA review find?

---

The review looked at [imidacloprid](#), clothianidin and thiamethoxam. The three pesticides were found to impact bee learning and navigation and reproduction, though the risk varies with route of exposure and between bee species. The technical reports update initial conclusions drawn up in 2013.

## I thought the pesticides only target pests?

---

They do. However, nanogram quantities of the neurotoxin are present in pollen and nectar and these pose sub-lethal risks to pollinators, such as bees. Nearby crop and wild plants can also be contaminated and the insecticides can accumulate in soil. Neonics have been detected in [streams](#), [honey](#), [garden flowers](#) and [wildflowers](#). It's not just bees, either. A [Dutch study](#) reported that birds raised fewer chicks when levels of imidacloprid were higher in surface waters. The more present, the poorer the fare of aquatic invertebrates. A [review](#) last year highlighted potential links to butterfly declines and harm to ants, earthworms, mayflies and caddisflies.

## Did regulators act to ban or restrict them?

---

There were [restrictions put in place](#) for three neonics since 2013 in their use in flowering crops, such as oil seed rape. However, the EFSA do not make specific legislative recommendations. Any moves in this direction are up to EU member states and the European Commission.

## They are still used by farmers?

---

Yes. On wheat and barley, for instance, to limit the spread of a virus and deter slugs from hollowing out grain. Farmers say they are important for controlling aphids on sugar beet to limit spread of the beet yellow virus. Some neonics are used on fruiting trees in Europe.

## What do opponents of neonicotinoids say?

---

That neonicotinoids are just one of a long line of pesticides that harm pollinators and non-target animals. One of the main arguments is that each insecticide's effects are studied in isolation, but in the real world they occur as mixtures that may act synergistically and accentuate the risks to beneficial insects and other organisms. This, they suggest, means the approval system for new agrichemicals is faulty.

## What does the agrichemical industry say about banning these pesticides?

---

That it will get more difficult to produce high quality food crops such as wheat, barley, vegetables and sugar beet at a competitive price. Also, that a ban could reduce competitiveness of European farmers and boost imports of wheat and sugar beet from countries that still use the neonics. Bayer (which sells imidacloprid and clothianidin) [disputes the EFSA findings](#).

The main argument of those in favour of neonics is that environmental problems must be balanced against farm needs and that some neonics are far less toxic to bees than the three EFSA focus on. Rothamsted Research in the UK has [previously argued](#) that a neonic ban could harm UK agriculture.

There are three listed neonicotinoids, but there are others out there?

---

The report focusses on the three most widely-used neonicotinoids, but others such as thiacloprid and acetamiprid are not subject to the moratorium or recent review. Some researchers say other newer insecticides may prove harmful to bees and other non-target insects because regulatory procedures have not changed. One example is sulfoxaflor, which works in a similar way to neonics and has been [challenged in US courts](#)

Will banning these neonicotinoids turn the situation around for our wild bees?

---

Not on its own. Scientists campaigning for a ban say bees face a wide range of other stresses, especially loss of habitat and the presence of other toxins in the environment, and the blame for loss of bees cannot be pinned entirely on one class of insecticide.