

Office of the President

TO MEMBERS OF THE COMPLIANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE:

DISCUSSION ITEM

For Meeting of September 18, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA HERBICIDE TASK FORCE UPDATE

UC Office of the President staff will present an update on the progress of the UC Herbicide Task Force, which has met seven times since the July Regents meeting. Notably, the Task Force has undertaken the following activities:

- The Task Force distributed a follow-up survey to UC locations, requesting additional details regarding the historical use of glyphosate-based herbicides and current herbicide use practices while the temporary suspension has been in effect.
- The Task Force has invited various experts, both within and outside the UC system, to provide perspectives. These include individuals affiliated with the University of Colorado, Boulder; Pepperdine University; UC Berkeley and UC weed science experts.
- The Union Coalition nominated, and the Task Force added to its ranks, a representative from AFSCME who is a groundskeeper at UCSB.
- The Task Force has assessed the pesticide use tracking and reporting mechanisms for UC.
- The Task Force has begun reviewing Integrated Pest Management plans and developing recommendations for UC.
- The Task Force has drafted questions for and engaged a consultant to conduct interviews with a cross-section of pesticide applicators to solicit their feedback and concerns.

The Task Force also recommended that the President clarify for UC locations the existing glyphosate-based herbicide suspension and provide specific details regarding requests for a specially tailored exception. The President accepted that recommendation and sent a letter to UC locations on August 12, 2019, that explained the following:

- General weed control in landscaped areas, parking lots, street medians, etc., is not considered an “agricultural use.”
- The production of timber for harvest is considered an “agricultural use” for the purposes of the specifically elaborated exceptions.

- The temporary suspension does apply at all University-owned and -operated properties, including public-private partnership (P3) projects, where contractually permitted.
- The temporary suspension does not “grandfather” existing glyphosate applications.
- Various details must be included in specially tailored exception requests for consideration by the systemwide Task Force.

Overall, the Task Force has made progress on each key item within its list of charges and has already begun drafting various portions of the final report. The Task Force believes that it will be able to provide sound and reasoned recommendations to the President by November 1, 2019, although some of these recommendations will require additional work both at the Office of the President and at other UC locations after the submission of the final report.