

Request for Board Meeting Agenda Item: Use of Herbicides in the Eucalyptus Fuel Reduction Project

I respectfully request that the Board place an agenda item on an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 to discuss the use of herbicides as part of the ongoing eucalyptus fuel reduction project along Mesa Road and Olema-Bolinas Road.

Many community members have recently observed workers spraying herbicides on eucalyptus stumps following tree removal activities. Given Bolinas's long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship and minimizing the use of pesticides and herbicides, I believe this issue warrants additional public discussion and review.

The eucalyptus removal and fuel reduction effort has been described as a multi-year project, which presents an opportunity to evaluate whether herbicide application is necessary and consistent with community values. Alternative methods for preventing eucalyptus regrowth may be available, including repeated manual removal of sprouts over several years or stump grinding. These approaches may achieve vegetation management goals while reducing potential impacts associated with chemical treatments.

Historically, decisions affecting the environmental character of Bolinas have benefited from broad community participation and transparent public dialogue. A discussion of this issue would allow residents to better understand the project's objectives, the specific herbicides being used, the rationale for their application, potential environmental impacts, and possible alternatives.

I request that the Board consider the following questions:

1. What herbicides are being used as part of the eucalyptus fuel reduction project?
2. What environmental review or risk assessment has been conducted regarding their use?
3. What alternatives to herbicide application were considered?
4. Can non-chemical methods of eucalyptus regrowth control be incorporated into future phases of the project?
5. Should the community develop policies or guidelines regarding herbicide use in publicly funded or publicly managed projects within Bolinas?

Thank you for considering this request. I believe a public discussion will help ensure that future project decisions reflect both wildfire resilience goals and the environmental values of the Bolinas community.

Sincerely,

Jessica Shaefer