

*Arnold Litt*

CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

19 MAY 23 PM 1:16

## OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 13544 C.M.S.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM DAN KALB,  
COUNCILMEMBER NIKKI FORTUNATO BAS, AND COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
REBECCA KAPLAN

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**ORDINANCE: (1) ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S (CITY) POLICY PROHIBITING THE CITY'S USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES (NEONICOTINOIDS) IN ORDER TO PROTECT HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS; (2) URGING THE ADOPTION OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON NEONICOTINOIDS; AND (3) URGING RETAILERS OPERATING IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO NOT SELL NEONICOTINOIDS**

**WHEREAS**, bees and other insect pollinators are critical to agricultural production of certain types of crops. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, honey bee pollinators (*apis mellifera L.*) play a critical role in producing one-third of the nation's food supply. The monetary value of such pollination is estimated to be \$18 to \$27 billion in annual agricultural production in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the maintenance of healthy, biodiverse ecosystems depends upon the significant environmental services provided by pollinator species; and

**WHEREAS**, bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress and experiencing global die-offs and diminishing populations, driven by a number of factors including habitat loss, disease, pesticide exposure, lack of forage, and climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids are a class of nicotine-like pesticides, which include acetamiprid, imidacloprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam. First patented in the 1980s for commercial use, neonicotinoids have become frequently used in agriculture and are now the most widely used class of pesticide in the world. In agriculture, neonicotinoids are used to coat seeds or applied to the plant; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids are absorbed by plants to which they are applied and are described as “systemic,” which means they travel throughout a plant via its vascular system, spreading to all parts of a plant, including pollen and nectar, which are consumed by bees, greatly increasing the likelihood that animals that come into contact with the plant are contaminated. Applied neonicotinoids are also slow to break down and can remain persistent in plants, soil, and the environment for long periods of time; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Geological Survey has highlighted the growing use of neonicotinoids in the United States and found significant neonicotinoid contamination in our nation's waters and studies show that neonicotinoids are highly toxic to aquatic invertebrates; and

**WHEREAS**, in the late 1990s, neonicotinoids came under increasing scrutiny over their environmental impacts. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. Recent research suggests that there is a possible link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids and the die-off of plant pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. The Global Taskforce on Systemic Pesticides, a group of 29 independent scientists, examined over 800 peer-review papers on the effects of neonicotinoids on wildlife, as well as water and soil quality, over a four year period and published a report in 2014 that concluded that neonicotinoids are toxic to bee populations; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids are known to have acute and chronic effects that are highly damaging to bees, butterflies and other pollinator species, and even nonlethal exposure can affect bee navigation, reproduction, survival rates, and foraging; and

**WHEREAS**, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that existing neonicotinoid contamination in the environment can also adversely impact birds, aquatic organisms and the ecosystems they support; and

**WHEREAS**, neonicotinoids are included in pesticide products that are readily available to the public and application of the products in home gardens can occur at significantly higher rates than what has been approved for agricultural crops. Educating the public and promoting the discontinuance of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids will benefit bees and other insect pollinators and agricultural production within the city and the surrounding region; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 19, 2015, the White House Pollinator Health Task Force under President Barack Obama issued its report, focusing on increasing habitat for pollinators and called for further extensive research into all aspects of pollinator health; and

**WHEREAS**, following lawsuits against the EPA and the introduction of ultimately unsuccessful legislation banning certain neonicotinoids in 2012-2013, the Obama administration issued a blanket ban in 2014 on the use of neonicotinoids on National

Wildlife Refuges, a decision which was overturned in 2018 by the Trump Administration;  
and

**WHEREAS**, cities, states, and countries are increasingly banning neonicotinoids;  
and

**WHEREAS**, some national and other retailers have taken steps to stop selling  
pesticides with neonicotinoids; and

**WHEREAS**, urban use of pesticides is often for mere cosmetic purposes and is  
not necessary to create and maintain attractive landscapes, gardens or open spaces,  
given the availability of viable alternative practices and products; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oakland City Council adopted an Integrated Pest Management  
(IPM) policy in 1995. The IPM policy was amended by the Council in 2005 to include  
exemptions for the purpose of wildfire mitigation in addition to the existing exemptions.  
While the implementation of the IPM plan has the potential to benefit or harm  
pollinators, Oakland currently does not have any language directly addressing  
neonicotinoids or bees; and

**WHEREAS**, the City's IPM policy prohibits the City from using pesticides on City  
owned property or facilities with limited exceptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City does not currently use neonicotinoid pesticides on its  
properties; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2016, the Oakland City Council approved Resolution  
No. 86114 C.M.S. introduced by Councilmember Dan Kalb in support of Senate Bill  
1282 (Leno), unsuccessful legislation that would have required labeling of seeds and  
plants sold at retail establishments that have been treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide  
and designated neonicotinoid pesticides as restricted materials pursuant to state law;  
and

**WHEREAS**, on May 16, 2017, the Oakland City Council approved Resolution No.  
86736 C.M.S. introduced by Councilmembers Dan Kalb and Abel Guillen in support of  
Senate Bill 602 (Allen & Wiener), unadopted legislation which, in its original form, would  
have required labeling of commercially available seeds and plants treated with  
neonicotinoid pesticide; and

**WHEREAS**, in January of 2018, California's Department of Pesticide Regulation  
announced that it would no longer consider any applications by pesticide companies  
that would expand the use of neonicotinoids in the state, to be lifted once the agency  
finishes an ongoing evaluation, in conjunction with the EPA, of the pesticides; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Oakland values pollinators and sustainability, has had its  
own Pollinator Posse community group, and is home to apiaries, pollinator gardens, the  
Bee Hotel at the Gardens at Lake Merritt, and residents and organizations who care and

work on the health of our environment and food supply. And bees have been the focus of various Oakland garden workshops, walking tours, and an Oakland Museum *Bees* exhibit; and

**WHEREAS**, California law limits the ability of local jurisdictions to restrict or regulate pesticide usage; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions contemplated in this Ordinance do not constitute a project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Further, even such actions were to be construed as a project under CEQA, it is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) (it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment), and 15308 (it is an action for the protection of the environment).

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OAKLAND DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Title 18 of the Oakland Municipal Code is amended to add Chapter 18.04 **AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S POLICY PROHIBITING THE CITY'S USE AND PURCHASE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES, URGING THE ADOPTION OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON NEONICOTINOIDS, AND URGING RETAILERS OPERATING IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND NOT TO SELL NEONICOTINOIDS**, to read as follows:

**18.04.010. Definitions**

"IPM" means the City of Oakland's Integrated Pest Management Policy, enacted by Resolution Number 73963 C.M.S. and all subsequent amendments.

"Neonicotinoid" means a class of nicotine-like pesticides, which include acetamiprid, imidacloprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam.

"Nursery stock" means young plants grown at a nursery.

"Pollinator" means an insect that carries pollen from one plant or part of a plant to another.

**18.04.020. Prohibition on City's Use and Purchase of Neonicotinoid Pesticides or Nursery stock, Trees, Plants, Seeds, or other plants or materials treated with or consisting of neonicotinoids**

The City of Oakland (City) shall not use any neonicotinoid or neonicotinoid-like, systemic, persistent pesticides for any purpose, other than treatment of an animal by a veterinarian in accordance with the City's IPM Policy, on property owned or operated by

the City, including public rights-of-way. This prohibition applies, at a minimum, to seed dressings, soil treatments, foliar sprays, and other types of applications.

Further, the City shall not purchase neonicotinoids and other neonicotinoid-like, systemic, persistent pesticides other than for veterinarian purposes in accordance with the City's IPM Policy.

#### **18.04.030. Pollinator-friendly Methods of Pest Control**

The City will strive to use only pollinator-friendly methods of pest control on any City-owned or operated property.

#### **18.04.040. Collaboration with Community and Conservation Organizations**

The City Administrator or designee shall ensure that the Departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, and other relevant City agencies, departments, and offices as established in Oakland Municipal Code Chapter 2.29 will seek to collaborate with Oakland community and conservation organizations, such as the Pollinator Posse, to prioritize planting and maintaining pollinator attracting plants on City-owned or operated properties.

#### **18.04.050. Education of the Public on Effect of Neonicotinoids on Pollinator Populations**

The City Administrator or designee shall post information on the City's website to educate the public regarding the effects of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids on bee and other pollinator populations and promote the use of other less-harmful pesticide products and/or alternative pest control practices, as well as planting bee-friendly plants. Residents should be advised that the City recommends avoiding spraying insecticides on plants and flowers on private property.

#### **18.04.060. Rules and Regulations**

The City Administrator is authorized to promulgate any rules and regulations or administrative instruction, necessary to carry out the purposes of this Ordinance.

### **SECTION 2. Public Notification of City Policy Prohibiting Its Use and Purchase of Neonicotinoids**

Within six months of the adoption of this Ordinance, the City Administrator or designee shall notify the public regarding the City's policy prohibiting its use and purchase of neonicotinoids through the City's, Public Works', and Parks and Recreation's websites and/or website pages to inform residents of the impacts and risks associated with the use of neonicotinoids on or near pollinators, the beneficial reasons for the protection of insects, birds, and water-related animals in the environment, and methods and alternatives the City is using for protection of pollinators.

**SECTION 3. Presentation before the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission**

The City Administrator or designee shall, during the 2019 calendar year, present to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission information regarding this Ordinance and the City's plan to ensure that it never knowingly purchases commercial nursery stock, trees, plants, seeds, or other plants or materials treated with or consisting of neonicotinoids.

**SECTION 4. Encouraging Businesses to Stop Selling and Using Neonicotinoids**

The City strongly encourages retail businesses operating within the City of Oakland to take immediate steps to ensure no plants, seeds, or garden, landscaping, or agricultural products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold, or used within the City of Oakland.

The City Administrator or designee shall send a copy of this Ordinance with an accompanying letter to pest control companies, nurseries, hardware stores, and other retailers operating in the City of Oakland that are believed to sell or likely to sell products to the public containing neonicotinoids.

**SECTION 5. Notice to Local Public Agencies**

The City Administrator or designee shall send a copy of this Ordinance to the Board of Directors and Superintendent of the Oakland Unified School District, the Board of Directors and General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District, the Board of Directors and General Manager of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, and the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

**SECTION 6. Notice to State and Federal Legislators and Agencies**

The City Administrator or designee is directed to send a copy of this Ordinance to Assemblymembers Rob Bonta and Buffy Wicks, State Senator Nancy Skinner, Governor Gavin Newsom, U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, and U.S. Senators Kamala Harris and Dianne Feinstein, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**SECTION 7. California Environmental Quality Act**

The City Council finds that the above actions do not constitute a project for the purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Further, even if the above actions were to be construed as a project under CEQA, the City Council finds that it is exempt pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15061(b)(3) (it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant

effect on the environment), and 15308 (it is an action for the protection of the environment).

**SECTION 8. CEQA Notice of Exemption**

The City Administrator or designee shall file a Notice of Exemption with the appropriate agencies.

**SECTION 9. Severability.** If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the Chapter. The City Council hereby declares that it would have passed this Ordinance and each section, subsection, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that one or more other sections, subsections, clauses or phrases may be declared invalid or unconstitutional

**SECTION 10. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective immediately on final adoption if it receives six or more affirmative votes; otherwise it shall become effective upon the seventh day after final adoption.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

**JUN 18 2019**

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND PRESIDENT KAPLAN *-8*

NOES *-0*

ABSENT *-0*

ABSTENTION *-1*

ATTEST:



LATONDA SIMMONS

City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the City of Oakland, California

Date of Attestation:

*June 25, 2019*

Introduction Date  
**JUN 04 2019**

## NOTICE AND DIGEST

**ORDINANCE: (1) ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF OAKLAND'S (CITY) POLICY PROHIBITING THE CITY'S USE OF NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES (NEONICOTINOID) IN ORDER TO PROTECT HONEY BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS; (2) URGING THE ADOPTION OF STATE AND FEDERAL RESTRICTIONS ON NEONICOTINOID; AND (3) URGING RETAILERS OPERATING IN THE CITY OF OAKLAND TO NOT SELL NEONICOTINOID**

This ordinance establishes a policy (policy) prohibiting the City from using Neonicotinoid pesticides. It also requires the City to urge state and federal legislators to take action to regulate Neonicotinoid pesticides and for the City to inform local public agencies and retailers about the policy.