

Dear Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors,

Amphibians in Santa Cruz County and worldwide are rapidly disappearing. As the Founder & Executive Director of SAVE THE FROGS!, America's first and only public charity dedicated to amphibian conservation, I represent all of Santa Cruz County's amphibian species as well as all humans who rely on the multitude of ecosystem services amphibians provide.

Methyl iodide has been listed by the State of California as a "CHEMICAL KNOWN TO THE STATE TO CAUSE CANCER OR REPRODUCTIVE TOXICITY" under Prop 65 (The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986). As such, **I request that you ban methyl iodide from use in Santa Cruz County:** methyl iodide has no place on our food, or in our streams or tap water.

On top of the obvious problems methyl iodide would cause to farmworkers, to citizens of Santa Cruz and surrounding counties, and to all those around the world who eat the strawberries and other food produced here, methyl iodide would inevitably be brought by gravity into the waterbodies where amphibians live and breed. Amphibians have permeable skin and readily absorb pollutants. We already have over 18,000 registered pesticides in the USA, most of which undergo very little testing on wildlife prior to being approved, so adding to the problem would be unwise and unethical. You can learn more about the effect of pesticides on amphibians at:

www.savethefrogs.com/pesticides

Humans have successfully grown strawberries without pesticides for thousands of years. With modern organic farming techniques and investment in technology and organic farming education, I have no doubt that Santa Cruz can not only remain a world leader in strawberry production in the absence of methyl iodide, but that we can grow and distribute strawberries that are safe for human consumption and safe for wildlife.

Thank you for protecting human and environmental health by banning methyl iodide.

Sincerely,



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