**City Projects at Calavera Preserve**

**What do you think about removing these palm trees?**

We support removing these trees.  They are an invasive species of palms that are not native to this area.  They use large amounts of water impacting the water table and what is available for native plants.  Because they are not native they do not provide the same kind of nesting and forage opportunities for birds and other wildlife.  And they impact understory vegetation as well. Removing them will create the opportunity to restore this area to a much higher quality habitat that will be good for a wide range of native plants and wildlife- as well as the people who love this area.

**Couldn't this have been done another way- instead of drilling herbicide into the core of these trees?**

Yes. The staff at Dept of Fish and Wildlife recommended girdling the trunks.  The Star Ranch Preserve removes the terminal bud which causes the palm tree to die slowly. Then the tree can be removed by pulling it out of the ground whole with a tow cable, as palm tree roots are very superficial. At Quarry Creek the landowner dug out mature palms and helicoptered them off site so they could be prepared for resale.  There are many ways this could have been done.  We do not know if any of these were even considered.  We are working on ways to reduce the amount of such chemicals that are being used.  Irvine is a great model- see information on their program here: <http://www.nontoxicirvine.org/> .

**What is the herbicide being used- and is it safe?**

The herbicide being used is Monsanto Roundup Custom 50%, a glyphosate-based herbicide. Glyphosate-based herbicides were originally registered with the EPA in 1974. The EPA says that if used according to labeling specified, glyphosate-based herbicides will not pose unreasonable risks or adverse effects to humans or the environment.

**Are there any new safety concerns about the use of Glyphosate-based herbicides?**

Glyphosate-based herbicides were last evaluated by EPA in 1993 and are currently undergoing [registration review](https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0361). Glyphosate use by U.S. farmers rose from 12.5 million pounds in 1995 to 250 million pounds in 2014 – a 20-fold increase. In November 2015 the World Health Organization declared that glyphosate was a “probable carcinogen”. The EPA will analyze and report on these findings by 2017.

**Due to Glyphosate wide-spread use, what other testing needs to be done to ensure it’s safe?**

The government needs to evaluate low level exposure to glyphosate over long time periods. So far it hasn’t included glyphosate when it tests food for pesticide residues or monitors chemicals in human blood and tissues. So there is no information on how much people are exposed to from using it in their yards, living near farms or eating foods from treated fields.

**How could the use of glyphosate impact wildlife at Lake Calavera Preserve?**

Milkweed is a protected native plant at Lake Calavera Preserve and the only food source of the Monarch caterpillar. Glyphosate is a potent killer of milkweed and thought by scientists to be the primary contributor to the dramatic plunge in monarch butterfly population. Care must be taken by preserve maintenance to avoid milkweed when spraying weeds with herbicide.

For a glyphosate fact sheet from the EPA website: <http://npic.orst.edu/factsheets/glyphogen.html>

Glyphosate Information sources: EPA, Environmental Working Group, National Geographic, Center for Biological Diversity, Natural Resources Defense Council, Environmental Health, Center for Food Safety.

**Why were no signs posted telling neighbors/hikers what was being done?**

Staff at the county EPA said if people had questions they could ask the workers on site.  Since most of the work is off trail that would have been hard to do.  We have asked the city to do a better job of communicating what is being done.

**Who is going to monitor the restroom to make sure there are no problems?**

We have been told that someone will lock and unlock the restroom every day- although whether this is through the police department or another department is still unclear.  All of us need to be the eyes and ears to make sure it is used appropriately- and report problems immediately.

**How can we keep informed about this project?**

The city has hired a PR firm to do outreach and there is supposed to be a regular update on the project webpage at [www.carlsbadca.gov/trails](http://www.carlsbadca.gov/trails).  They have brochures in the Calavera Preserve kiosks with 760-602-2780 as the number to call.  Also please fell free to contact us with your questions [info@preserveclavera.org](mailto:info@preserveclavera.org).

**What else has Preserve Calavera done about these issues?**

We have had several follow-up meetings with the city and expect that community outreach will be improved and further chemical use will be reduced.   This is one of many restoration projects needed in this preserve.  We hope that future ones will have a more collaborative process from the beginning.