

Good evening City Council and City Staff,

We come together as members of Petaluma Mobile Resident United to partner in the defending, enforcing and enhancing of Mobile Park resident protections.

We are battled but remain brave and so are you!

We are fatigued but remain empowered and so are you!

We are challenged but remain committed and so are you!

We are vulnerable but remain hopeful and so are you!

From the beginning we have stood up with truth, facts, violations, and resolve and so have you!

WE find hope in these hard places and find the light in HOPE

Eleanor Roosevelt once wrote

“Where after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home”

Petaluma is our home. We chose to live here, to buy mobile homes and live within our means.

Who are we?

Humble, retired senior citizens who have made a mark in their hard-working careers and now earned the right to live life in peace and calm

Humble hard-working families, some working multiple jobs to make ends meet who look at their children and their mothers and fathers and worry that the home they bought with hard earned money is at risk with bad actors trying hard to push them out.

Information has always led to the power of these residents. They have had to suffer the harm lodged against them but still all we see is love for each other, love for community and empathy to lift each other up when all of this gets too much to handle for their fellow neighbors.

Information and resolve have led to unexpected outreach from cities and counties throughout this great state of California, who seek our experience and our experience in fighting these bad actor large investment groups.

While we patiently wait for the enforcement, the enhancement in protections, the lawsuits, the appeals, the parking issues to be resolved and some sense of peace being restored we the residents of our mobile parks know one thing for sure.

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Having been in this city council chambers week upon week we see YOU ALL DO HARD....

Residents may not agree with positions or paths to future self-reliance of our city of Petaluma, but one thing is for

sure-your effort stands at the forefront to make life better for each and every one of us.

Respectfully,

Petaluma Mobile Residents United

From: [Kimberly Fields](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Fw: Please. This Is All Petaluma Natives" Concern
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 4:46:23 PM

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Kimberly Fields <myjoly16@myyahoo.com>
To: Cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org <cityclerk@cityofpetaluma.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 09:20:23 PM PST
Subject: Please. This Is All Petaluma Natives' Concern

Dear City Clerk, This Has Been Going On For I'm Not Sure How Many Month's Or Years But There Is Absolutely No Clearance Way For Those Big Greedy Money Spenders Who Are All Trying To Jump Into Petaluma's Historic Downtown! No Way! What's Wrong With Those Greedy and Clueless Crooked Minded Big Money Spenders? They Can't Ever Make Anything Better For Petaluma's Historic Downtown! No Way! And Those Clueless Big Greedy Crooked Minded Big Money Spenders Need To Leave Petaluma Historic Downtown Alone! Because It's Not Broken! As Well As They're Numbers Are Not Matching Up With Petaluma's County Clerks Office! Because Petaluma's Historic Downtown Overlay Can Not Ever Be Changed! It's Fine The Way It Is!! The Big Money Spenders Need To Go Find Somewhere Else To Go Bother And With Their Own Stupid Greediness! The Big Money Spenders Are All Out For Their Own Greed! That's So Obvious! Because Our Petaluma Historic Downtown Is Not Suited For At All For Big Money Spender's Sky-high Skyscrapers! That's Ridiculous! Petaluma's Historic Downtown Does Not Need To Be Fixed! Let Alone Get All Built Up With Sky-high Skyscrapers! That's Ridiculous! No Way Because It's A Complete Hazard! There's Just No Way! No Way! The Big Greedy Money Spenders Can Not Disrupt, Antagonize, And Or Mismanage Petaluma's Community! And Or As Well As Those Greedy Big Money Spenders Can Not Mess Around With The Lives Of All Of The People Who Are Either Living In Or Near Petaluma's Historic Downtown. Big Money Spenders Need To Be Directed Out Of Sonoma County Somewhere Else To Another Town Or State That Would Or Could Ever Need Their Facelift Help! Because Petaluma's Historic Downtown Never Called Them For Anything! Sincerely, Kimberly A. Fields A Petaluma Native Since 1960 Born and Raised In Petaluma, Ca.

From: [lendra p \[REDACTED\]](#)
To: [-- City Council](#); [Peggy Flynn](#); [Peggy Flynn](#)
Subject: NEW STUDY- just another reason why you should have voted to protect our children's health in regards to safe soccer
Date: Friday, February 28, 2025 10:14:34 AM

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From: Sarah Aird <sarah@pestcidereform.org>
Date: Thu, Feb 27, 2025 at 10:10 AM
Subject: Microplastics Interact with Pesticides, Exacerbating Environmental Health Threats, Studies Find
To: <cpr-policy@pestcidereform.org>, <alternatives@pestcidereform.org>

[Microplastics Interact with Pesticides, Exacerbating Environmental Health Threats, Studies Find](#)



(*Beyond Pesticides*, February 25, 2025) A literature review of over 90 scientific articles in [Agriculture](#) documents microplastics' (MPs) increase in the bioavailability, persistence, and toxicity of pesticides used in agriculture. The interactions between MPs and pesticides enhance the threat of pesticide exposure to nontarget organisms, perpetuates the cycle of toxic chemical use, and decreases soil health that is vital for productivity.

"The increasing presence of MPs in agricultural ecosystems has raised concerns about their impact on pesticide bioavailability, efficacy, and environmental behavior," says study author Kuok Ho Daniel Tang, PhD, a global professor in the Department of Environmental Science at the University of Arizona. He continues, "These synthetic particles interact with pesticides through adsorption and desorption processes, altering their distribution, persistence, toxicity, and uptake by plants and other organisms."

Microplastics in the Environment

As Beyond Pesticides has [previously reported](#), microplastics are ubiquitous and threaten not only human health but all wildlife in both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The universal distribution of plastics means that they cannot be avoided. Humans and other organisms take up plastics in the form of microparticles and nanoparticles by inhalation, ingestion, and skin contact every day. Microplastics are about the [width of a human hair](#); nanoplastics are much smaller, about twice the width of a DNA strand. Larger pieces of plastic are ground down to these tiny sizes by weathering, temperature, biological processes, and chemical conditions. (See additional *Daily News* coverage on microplastics [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)

In agriculture, the primary sources of microplastics are plastic mulching, coatings on pesticides, and fertilizers such as [biosolids](#), in addition to the particles carried to the fields by wind and water. As Dr. Tang says: “MPs are defined as plastic fragments measuring less than 5 mm in size and can either result from the breakdown of larger plastic waste (secondary MPs) or be produced intentionally for specific uses (primary MPs), like in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, and industrial applications. Owing to their diminutive size, durability, and widespread presence, MPs have been recognized as a global pollutant that can interact with various environmental contaminants, including pesticides.”

Recent research on interactions with antibiotics shows that MPs can act as a vehicle, “extending their presence in the environment and aiding in the development and spread of [antibiotic-resistance genes](#),” Dr. Tang states. (See studies [here](#) and [here](#).) He continues, saying that these results have led to “growing concern that the co-occurrence of MPs and pesticides may exacerbate the environmental risks associated with these contaminants through complex physicochemical interactions.”

The interaction between MPs and pesticides depends on various factors, such as the physical and chemical properties of both the MPs and pesticides involved, as well as the environmental conditions they are subjected to, including pH, temperature, salinity, and organic matter content. The pervasiveness of a pesticide in the environment after contact with MPs can be altered based on their modes of action, including systemic pesticides that are absorbed by plants and transported throughout their tissues and contact pesticides that kill pests with direct contact.

Adsorption and Bioavailability

Bioavailability of pesticides represents “the extent to which a pesticide is accessible to organisms or biological systems, such as plants, microbes, or animals, for absorption, uptake, or interaction,” Dr. Tang shares. “It determines how effectively a pesticide can exert its intended effects, such as killing pests or controlling weeds, and it also influences the pesticide’s potential for environmental contamination and toxicity,” he continues. Through the interaction with MPs, the bioavailability of pesticides can be altered by the mechanism of adsorption, where particles from the pesticides can adhere to the plastic’s surface.

Relevant studies find:

- “Aged microplastics have higher surface areas for adsorption, thus reducing pesticide bioavailability. This decreases the effectiveness of systematic and contact pesticides.”
- MPs cause [atrazine](#) to [dissipate in soil](#), preventing it from reaching targeted plants.
- “Higher pesticide adsorption also increases the persistence of pesticides, as indicated by their extended degradation half-lives.”
- “MPs exhibited [strong adsorption](#) for all three compounds ([azoxystrobin](#), picoxystrobin, and [pyraclostrobin](#))” and modified residual behaviors.
- “[T]he extent of pyraclostrobin’s adsorption to MPs greatly affected its presence in black bean seedlings.” (See studies [here](#) and [here](#).)

- Interactions with MPs show a “[marked increase in the adsorption](#) of the highly hydrophobic fungicides azoxystrobin and [tebuconazole](#) in the soil.”
- “MPs, particularly tire fragments, may reduce the bioavailability of [chlorpyrifos](#).” (See study [here](#).)
- “Germination rates of crops such as lettuce [significantly declined](#) in the presence of MPs combined with [neonicotinoid insecticides](#). This trend was more pronounced with aged MPs, likely due to their enhanced ability to adsorb pesticides.”

When microplastics influence the uptake of pesticides, they can cause a decline in pesticide effectiveness that results in lower agricultural yields and higher costs of having to apply more pesticides. This creates a reliance on toxic chemical usage that threatens health and the environment and increases costs for farmers, given reduced pesticide product efficacy. This review helps to highlight the significant negative effect of microplastics on pesticide bioavailability that “prompt the application of more pesticides to achieve the desired level of crop protection, which bears cost and environmental consequences,” Dr. Tang comments.

Pesticide Persistence

Persistence of chemicals, including pesticides, refers to the duration they stay active in the environment within the soil, in water and air, or on vegetation before decomposing. “Usually, persistence is measured through the half-life ($T_{1/2}$), which signifies the time required for half of the pesticide to decompose,” the study explains. MPs can alter the half-life of chemicals, as is referenced in scientific literature.

Study results include:

- “MPs could greatly [extend the degradation half-lives](#) of atrazine, azoxystrobin, [epoxiconazole](#), [metolachlor](#), [myclobutanol](#), [simazine](#), tebuconazole, and terbuthylazine in aquatic environments... For instance, the half-life of terbuthylazine was notably increased from 31.8 days to 45.2 days when exposed to a concentration of 10 g/L of MPs.”
- “In [degradation experiments](#), MPs substantially prolonged the persistence of herbicides in aquatic environments, from 86.6–231 days in the control to 346.5–886.2 days in water.”
- “The introduction of MPs led to a reduction in the residues of 3,5-dichloroaniline in the soil and its availability for biological uptake, consequently resulting in an increased persistence of 3,5-dichloroaniline within the soil environment.” (See studies [here](#) and [here](#).)
- “Certain findings indicate that MPs can greatly impede the breakdown of pesticides in aquatic environments, resulting in increased persistence of these chemicals in water.” (See studies [here](#) and [here](#).)
- “MPs inhibited [chlorpyrifos degradation](#), extending its half-life and reducing its breakdown rate. This prolongs the pesticide’s active period and raises concerns about soil contamination and off-target effects.”
- By MPs [reducing the bioavailability](#) of fungicides, “this extended their persistence in the soil and diminished the absorption of these chemicals by maize plants.”

Soil Health

Crop production and food security rely on healthy soils, which can be adversely impacted by pesticides. (See previous coverage [here](#).) The scientific literature contains research showing that the interactions between MPs and pesticides can exacerbate these environmental impacts.

This includes:

- Adverse impacts on soil structure and cohesion. (See [here](#) and [here](#).)
- Effects on the ability of soil to retain water. (See [here](#).)
- Affected presence of soil nutrients, such as organic matter, and microorganisms. (See [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).)
- Decreased microbial activity in the soil. (See [here](#) and [here](#).)

Pesticide Toxicity

While the majority of current literature focuses on lower bioavailability of pesticides as the most prominent adverse impact of organism interaction with MPs, there are studies that find an increase in toxicity of pesticides that come into contact with organisms.

Studies report:

- “[T]oxicity observed in the MPs after herbicide adsorption being [markedly greater](#) than in those without herbicides.”
- “[A]ged MPs demonstrated increased toxicity when paired with neonicotinoids... This [enhancement in toxicity](#) is attributed to the ability of aged MPs to absorb higher amounts of neonicotinoids, thus increasing their harmful effects.”
- Nontarget organisms, many of which provide beneficial [ecosystem services](#), are negatively impacted by MPs. Earthworms, which enhance soil health in ways that leads to better crop productivity, have reduced enzyme activity and [oxidative harm](#) as a result of combined exposure to MPs and [imidacloprid](#). This exposure “reduced their weight gain and antioxidant enzyme activity, potentially impairing their ecological role in agriculture.” (See study [here](#).)
- Also in earthworms, exposure to “MPs and carbendazim led to a significant drop in biomass, indicating a potential interaction effect. Furthermore, simultaneous exposure triggered [synergistic reactions](#), ranging from oxidative stress to alterations in critical organs like the body wall, intestines, and reproductive systems. A comparison of various indicators showed that the seminal vesicles and ovarian follicles were the most affected during the combined exposure.” (See study [here](#).)
- The presence of MPs “not only heightened [chlorpyrifos accumulation](#) in radishes but also diminished the fresh root biomass of the plants.”

A Path Forward

[Organic agriculture](#) negates microplastic–pesticide interactions that influence pesticide performance, soil health, and environmental safety. In adopting organic methods for land management, it provides a holistic solution that focuses on soil health while also protecting the health of all organisms. Organic agriculture embodies an ecological approach to farming that does not rely on or permit toxic pesticides, chemical fertilizers, genetically modified organisms, antibiotics, sewage sludge, or irradiation. The [National Organic Standards Board](#) (NOSB) works to continuously improve upon these standards and acts as a lifeline from the government to the organic community as it considers input from the public regarding organic integrity. In this context, [Beyond Pesticides has commented](#) to the NOSB that it should phase out the use of plastic in its certification production systems and in the packaging of organic food.

Visit [Keeping Organic Strong](#) to learn more about the 2025 NOSB meeting, as well as our [2024 comments](#) that include plastics in organics as a research priority. Reference our [previous action](#) regarding plastics in farming, water, and food, and stay informed on other opportunities to engage by [signing up](#) to receive our [Action of the Week](#) and *Weekly News Update* emails.

All unattributed positions and opinions in this piece are those of Beyond Pesticides.

Source:

Tang, K. (2025) Effects of Microplastics on Bioavailability, Persistence and Toxicity of Plant Pesticides: An Agricultural Perspective, *Agriculture*. Available at: <https://www.mdpi.com/2077-0472/15/4/356>.

Sarah Aird, Esq.

Policy Director

Californians for Pesticide Reform

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Working together for a just & sustainable food system since 1996

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Lendri Purcell (pronouns: she/her)

Co-President, Jonas Philanthropies

President, FACTS (Families Advocating for Chemical and Toxics Safety)



www.FACTStoAction.org



Democracy isn't a spectator sport. USE IT OR LOSE IT.

"Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public."

Cornell West

"We are slowed down sound and light waves, a walking bundle of frequencies tuned into the cosmos. We are souls dressed up in sacred biochemical garments and our bodies are the instruments through which our souls play their music." Einstein

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From: [Linda Righetti Judah](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: March meeting comment
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 3:25:22 PM

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Hello,

I just want to say that I am in favor of the overlay to allow the hotel downtown. I think this will be good for the downtown area.

Thank you ,
Linda Judah

From: nanra [REDACTED]
To: -- City Clerk; -- City Council
Subject: Re: overlay, taxes, income to city, response to city council comments at meetings
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2025 7:31:50 AM
Attachments: IMG_7712.heic

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Hello council members,

I only get to speak for maybe 2-3 minutes at public comment during meetings, so I can't say everything I would like to, or respond in person after you all get the last word after public comment. And now I hear our verbal comments are not considered when public comment is required to be responded to. So, that's why this is so long, I hope you all read it.

A council member in council comments after public comment on the overlay, insulted folks who want to protect the historic DISTRICT, by calling them redliners during the Oct or Nov council meeting. Check the videos. I found it very insulting, and incorrect. A bit hyperbolic too, don't you think? Does the council know what that term means? Red lining was to keep out black and ethnic minorities from getting loans from banks in certain areas. Keeping them out of upscale or just plain white, neighborhoods to protect property values. Some of the council members are more of redliners, wanting only galleries, restaurants, wineries, expensive hotels, and fancy souvenir shops downtown. Very expensive and only for the well off. It sure looks like planning and council seem to do secret red lining to some small local businesses too. Are you saving the space for the big corporate boys?

I found it fairly amusing to hear council say how all the past strip mall development in Petaluma in the last 10-15 years or so, isn't bringing in the income you expected. So your solution. Let's do it again and build more. Go big or go away. That's how you treat local business here. It seems you have bigger corporate plans than most citizens want and you want to evade and subvert the the citizens of Petaluma's wishes with the overlays. No vote, Minimize who is looking. Have it pass before General plan done. The hotel and overlay are only a foot in the door for your plans. As for pro overlay, even that young man who was brave enough to get up and speak for the overlay, it was because he wants housing to be allowed to be built, I asked him. Although more rentals mean the young just get to pay higher and higher rents as they go up.

And to hear how one of you doesn't feel safe walking in downtown with all those empty lots when the council and our outsourced planning department refuse or delay local business use permits for one parking space? or delay the use of walnut grill to El Roy's. It is simple hypocrisy. The outsourced planning department is happy to deny locals and charge us for all this extra time to accommodate developers like EKN. When you allow all these large franchise shopping centers to come in, they drain and denude the downtown of actual services and local stores that actually cater to us regular citizens' needs, and you end up with empty buildings and shops and restaurants that cater to tourists. The empty buildings and lots should be re purposed if possible, or build real affordable housing not a \$400/ night hotel. How does all demolition and new construction work to lower the environmental impact you all brag about? Building new is fine, if it is real affordable housing, but please, not 69- 70 feet in the historic district. Stick to the 45 there, and to the requirements of what makes a historical district. Anywhere else nearby, or in all the empty space between train and transit center, yes go for it, build, especially if it is really housing that \$35,000-50,000 per year (not month) local people can afford. Few of recently built ones are really "affordable". But the new luxury apartment development or retail is where the money is, and in those processes, our council always gives in and lets them keep ignoring Petalumas general plan and

even to what they agreed to when getting approved. But that consideration is not given for small business new or already here. Oh no. They get delay delay and denied. They must adhere to the code, and the city plan to the letter and you make appealing a decision super hard for a small business. It is demanded, and then still, delay. But a new corp developer, they hear, "what code or standard can I break or get changed for you? "

And another thought, because the sales tax is so high here, and you have made all these large shopping centers, the non tourist shopping is far away or scattered and car centered. So, no one needs to buy anything in Petaluma. If I have to get in my car anyway, I can drive to the same franchise or a store in another close town, or even a close county, and shop there cheaper. Think of that? Thank you for taking the time to read this if you did.

Nancy Rapalus

Happily residing in the A street historic district where my street gets cleaned every week now, because of the bike lane , unless of course, some is parked there.

From: [Toni Malvesta](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: Petaluma Riverfront Trestle
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2025 10:20:25 AM

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I support the City of Petaluma committing staff and funds now to rehabilitate the Trestle and complete the construction of a beautiful riverfront promenade. Please share this email with the City Manager and the City Council.

Thank you

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From: [J B](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 12:46:52 PM

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It's shameful that you have decided to take the cursed money and destroy our small town with large buildings. It is not a life of harmony and not christ-like. Shame on you all.

I curse M-Group because they are not to be trusted.

J. Barnett
Petaluma

From: [J B](#)
To: [-- City Clerk](#)
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT
Date: Monday, March 3, 2025 12:46:52 PM

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It's shameful that you have decided to take the cursed money and destroy our small town with large buildings. It is not a life of harmony and not christ-like. Shame on you all.

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J. Barnett
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