

Lydia Bruno

I'm a birder and advocate for measures to protect our wildlife. I'm thankful that California has gone much further to restrict anticoagulant rodenticides than any other state in the country.

The current exemption for research allows you to fully study problems of non-target wildlife poisoning to gather the evidence required under the law to allow less restrictive mitigations. Until this research period concludes (in two years) and evidence is gathered and vetted, your proposals to remove permitting requirements and allow new exemptions for restaurants and grocery stores are illegal.

If rodent problems at a specific restaurant or grocery store become a public health issue, public health officials can deal with those specific emergencies without exempting all of those sites.

I also urge you not to allow a grace period for the holistic rodent management training and plan. Applicators should have to wait until they are trained to start operating. They can use IPM strategies and non-ARs until they complete the training.

Thanks for your consideration on this very important issue.