

Janine Hicks

I am California resident in support of a total ban on anticoagulant rodenticides and in strong opposition to any changes to the regulations that would give exemptions for the use of rodenticides that would roll back protections gained by state legislation in 2020, 2023, and 2024. My reasoning for this position and further opinions: (1) All anticoagulant rodenticides should be banned and should not have exemptions for them expanded. Even with existing restrictions, anticoagulant rodenticides continue to kill and harm non-target animals — including mountain lions, bobcats, owls, and endangered San Joaquin kit foxes — through painful internal bleeding by secondary poisoning.

- (2) Expanding their use, especially in areas like restaurants and grocery stores where these poisons are currently prohibited, would undo years of progress and undermine California's landmark wildlife protections.
- (3) Allowing use for more than 100 days per year, as proposed, would recklessly increase exposure and ecological harm.
- (4) California does not need to rely on cruel, outdated poisons. Integrated Pest Management strategies — sealing buildings, removing food and water sources, and employing non-toxic controls such as contraceptives, snap traps, and electric traps — are humane and cost-effective solutions.
- (5) In rare, verified emergencies, DPR already has the authority to allow limited exemptions, ensuring that genuine public health threats can still be addressed responsibly.

Thank you.
Janine Hicks