

# The Environmental Protection Act Of 1990 And You

## *Van de Kamp, Hayden team up to ban pesticide use in California*

The Golf Course Industry will once again face a serious challenge when a radical new initiative called the "Environmental Protection Act of 1990" appears on the November ballot.

The initiative, sponsored by gubernatorial candidate John Van de Kamp and Assemblyman Tom Hayden, favors the zero risk philosophy toward pesticide safety as opposed to the risk versus benefit standards largely supported by industry.

Under provisions of the initiative pesticide jurisdiction in California would be transferred from the California Department of Food and Agriculture to the Department of Health Services. The act would phase out by 1996 all pesticides containing active ingredients known to have caused cancer and some suspected of it, under Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The Director of the Department of Health Services would be able to grant three-year extensions if cancellation of a pesticide would result in a severe hardship to the state economy, there is no known alternative, or the quantity of the chemical used in California is reduced by at least 10 percent on average over a five year period.

Industry officials say the initiative could eliminate at least 50 percent of the states' pesticides within three years. The West-

ern Agricultural Chemical Association estimates that the initiative would cost 250,000 jobs in California. Assemblyman Hayden believes, "these warnings are sheer nonsense." Hayden states that "California and the rest of the nation is heading inevitably toward and end to pesticides."

"This initiative is a very reasonable ban that calls for a gradual phaseout over a number of years of a handful of chemicals. We could have proposed a total ban on all pesticides by 1991 and it would pass. It's disconcerting to take agriculture's interest into account and then be told we'll put them out of business," he said.

Despite Hayden's assurance, industry officials take the initiative very seriously and efforts are under way to map out a strategy to oppose it.

Opposition groups feel that their most effective weapon to fight the act will be to combine resources with oil and lumber interests who are also affected.

The impact on the golf industry will be substantial since there are many important turf pesticides on the hit list. The criteria for effective turf maintenance may have to undergo significant changes in California before we can strike a more reasonable balance between protecting public health and maintaining the quality standards we have come to expect.

*Article submitted by Chuck Dal Pozzo*

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