

N.J. pesticide bill withheld from vote

WAYNE, N.J.—After eight years of debate, argument and compromise, New Jersey Senate Bill #3079 never made it to the floor for a vote in the N.J. Assembly, Jan. 13.

The bill is authored by the New Jersey Environmental Federation and sponsored by Senator Raymond Lesniak.

"The bill was an evolution of eight years of negotiations, public hearings and controversy," said Iona Gray, executive director of the Alliance for Environmental Concerns, based in Wayne, N.J.

"It contained some aspects that would make pesticide application difficult and in some circumstances would have banned them completely," said Gray.

One of the proposed bill's provisions called for a \$100 increase—to \$300—in the registration fee for each of the 10,307 pesticides currently used in New Jersey.

According to Gray, if the bill is reintroduced, it will have a tough time getting passed. Republicans—historically in favor of existing pesticide laws—won both assembly and senate majorities in last

November's elections

Ray Ferrarin, assistant director of The Pesticide Program didn't have a clue why the bill never made it to a vote. "We had most if not all groups, regulatory agencies lined up to support (the bill)," said Ferrarin, who thinks the bill will return.

The Pesticide Control Program is a watchdog group charged with making sure regulations state-wide are consistent and obeyed.

—Terry McIver

Water quality site-specific, study finds

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Results of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Phase II report for its National Water Well Survey adds to evidence that water quality problems are based on numerous site-specific factors, according to the Fertilizer Institute.

The Institute believes local experts should be charged with finding solutions,

rather than instituting a federal cure-all.

"The report concluded that no single set of factors can be used to determine the incidence of water quality problems across the country. Rather, each particular problem site was the result of a combination of different factors," reports the Institute.

Gary D. Myers, president of the Fertilizer Institute, insists that the study

has disproven two widely-held fallacies.

"It is clear there is no national water quality problem, and a simple reduction in fertilizer use will have little if any effect on reducing water pollution," says Myers.

The data should serve as a guide to the EPA as it decides on coastal zone management plans, according to Myers.

California groups pen water charter

SACRAMENTO, Calif.—The California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) has joined other interest groups and water suppliers to enact a "historic" statewide urban water conservation plan designed to save an estimated one million acre/feet of water per year.

The Urban Water Conservation Charter, developed by the state water conservation coalition and the California Department of Water Resources, contains a variety of "Best Management Practices," meant to conserve water use at residential, commercial and industrial sites. Landscape water conservation requirements for new and existing commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental and multi-family developments, and new and existing single family homes, will be implemented at the end of 1995. Large landscape water audits will be required at the end of 1994.

Landscape water conservation ordinances are one of many plans called for.

Pat Marion, chairman of CLCA's Water Management Committee, calls the charter

a "pioneering effort" toward better water conservation.

"We have an unusual opportunity to help sustain California's natural resources



Marion: Charter a 'pioneering effort.'

and ensure the wise use of water by supporting the implementation of these conservation practices," says Marion.

Xeriscaping is not referred to in the charter, and Marion says the bill should not be construed as either pro- or anti-xeriscaping.

Representatives from the Metropolitan Water district of Southern California, the San Francisco Water Department, the League of Women Voters of California and the Sierra Club were among 120 organizations which supported the charter.

A.B. 325, a statewide water ordinance, is expected to be made into law in April or May.

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