

COMPLETED PROJECT REPORT

Project Title: Economic benefits from Compound 1080 registration in California.

Research Agency: University of California - Berkeley

Principal Investigator: Zilberman

Budget: \$53,687.00

Summary:

The goal of this study was to evaluate the potential cost to the State of California in pursuing re-registration of Compound 1080, and the potential economic benefit from its use. This was accomplished by first determining the specific uses for which re-registration was sought. Next, the areas in California where those uses were most likely to be obtained were determined and the potential economic benefit to users in those areas was assessed.

August 1999 – Final Report

This report provides a historical background on the use of compound 1080 in California agriculture, and estimates the potential economic benefits from its use in controlling the Belding's ground squirrel. We focused on this particular species, because at the time we began writing this report, the Belding's was the only pest problem for which the chance of re-registering compound 1080 appeared remotely possible. Of course, passage of Proposition 4 has eliminated even this possibility. Nevertheless, the estimated benefits provide a measure of the economic damage caused by the Belding's, and serve to highlight the need for development of an alternative control material. Our results indicate that alfalfa producers in the Intermountain region of California lose as much as \$1.8 million from damage caused by the Belding's. This estimate of economic damage reflects both annual losses from reduced yields, and reduced stand life of a typical rotation. Moreover, compound 1080 appears to be the only control material that results in positive returns to alfalfa growers, if there is a squirrel infestation.

Last Updated:

02/18/09