



## **Raptors Are The Solution**

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### **Success stories: agencies and municipalities that have stopped using anticoagulant rodenticides**

**1. Ventura County:** The County's Watershed Protection District followed up on their Board's effort to eliminate anticoagulant rodenticides and did a study that found raptors are more effective at stopping rodents from damaging levies than anticoagulant rodenticides. The two-year scientific study is at the link below. Previously the Board voted to stop using rodenticides on county property (parks, golf courses, landscaping, buildings) but gave flood control facilities a pass because rodent damage can cause slope failure threatening property and lives. Now with this first-of-its-kind study, the County will be removing poison bait stations and replacing with owl boxes and raptor perches. Contact: *David Torfeh, Raptor Program Coordinator, Ventura County Watershed, Protection District O & M; (805) 794-5334*

<http://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/RaptorPilotStudy.pdf>

<http://vcportal.ventura.org/BOS/District2/RaptorStudyPressRelease.pdf>

**2. City of Menlo Park:** In August 2015, the City of Menlo Park adopted an updated Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy, which included a prohibition for the City to use poison rodent bait. In Nov. 2016, the City banned the use of rat poisons as part of changes to its general plan. The Menlo Park City Council banned its staff from using rat poison in city parks, open spaces, city buildings, etc. Instead, they use mechanical traps and are planning to switch to Contrapest.

**3. Marin County:** Poison free since 2009. Reports that the cost is slightly more expensive than using poison bait, an estimated increase of 10%, but they have "better control now." The County has emphasized eliminating rodents' food and water sources, removing rat habitat via horticultural methods and exclusion. Important to educate County staff that rats in the landscape provide prey for raptors and other predators; are not necessarily a negative. Reports successful nontoxic management at Marin Auditorium, even with a

community kitchen and lots of use. No requests to date for exemption to county toxics policy. *Contact: Chris Chamberlain, Supervisor, Parks and Open Space*

**4. Pepperdine University:** Announced commitment to going rodenticide-free on Earth Day 2013; achieved by Earth Day 2014. No increase in rats. Installed raptor perches. Budget for pest control has decreased. *Contact: Rhiannon Baillard, Director, Center for Sustainability; Assistant Vice President, Governmental & Regulatory Affairs*

**5. De Anza College:** Approached by students winter quarter, converted to nontoxic methods spring quarter 2015, about a three-week process: bait stations swapped out as they “came up for service.” Estimates 10% more expensive. No increase in rats. “So good we made it to the school paper!” *Contact: Manny DaSilva, Manager, Custodial Operations*

**6. Alameda County General Services:** No longer uses 136 lbs. of poison per year—switched completely to traps. *Contact: Wade Finlinson*

**7. Davis Co-op:** Switched from poison to traps July 2016. *Contact: Bija Young, [ebyoung@davisfood.coop](mailto:ebyoung@davisfood.coop)*

#### **8. Conejo Recreation and Park District**

Stopped using all anticoagulants in 2005 and all rodenticides in 2013. Uses carbon dioxide exclusively. *Contact: Matt Kouba, District Park Superintendent*

**9. Rancho Simi Park District** *Contact: District Manager Dan Paranick*

#### **10. Ojai Unified School District**

The school district board voted to discontinue anticoagulant rodenticides effective July 17, 2019. In place of rodenticides, the school district will implement a multi-step plan to repel and deter rodents, including partnering with the Ojai Raptor Center to install owl boxes on each campus. *Contact: Tiffani Morse, School District Superintendent*

#### **11. Westridge HOA, Calabasas**

After the HOA initially contracted and planned for 80 poison filled boxes throughout the small gated community, residents joined together to protest. A new Rodent Control Committee was subsequently formed in which residents exchanged ideas and researched non toxic solutions and met with vendors to explore alternatives. The community is now using Pro-Pell <http://pro-pell.com/> which is a spray rodent repellent made of essential oils, and also installed Good Natured A24 traps. Pro-Pell worked so well at the gate area that the traps were soon after removed. The HOA continues to regularly spray Pro-Pell monthly, as a good rodent repellent. *Contact: Randi Feilich, rfeilich@projectcoyote.org*