

**April 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00-9:45 AM Demo**  
**Non-toxic Weed abatement technique at Novato USD Site**  
**RAIN OR SHINE OR WIND!**

**DATE:** Thursday, April 19, 2007

**TIME:** 9:00 to 9:45 AM

**LOCATION:** On San Andreas Drive. Cross-street San Marin Dr.--just south of the intersection on undeveloped property. (see map below)

**QUESTIONS:** Veronica Valero, NUSD IPM Committee member: 415-897-2302 hm, 415-328-5706 cell

The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Committee of the NUSD invites you to join us in observing a demonstration of a new non-toxic weed abatement technique called "**Hydro Mechanical Obliteration**" (H\_M\_O or HMO). When you calculate the hidden cost factors of using a herbicide such as Roundup, the cost of HMO technique is about equal.

With known and unknown long term health affects of exposure to herbicides to children, adults, animals, and the environment, we need to do our due diligence in seeking alternative methods to reduce and eliminate the use of herbicides to control weeds and invasive plant species. **Here is an opportunity to observe a new technique and ask those all important questions.**

**BACKGROUND: The Hydro Mechanical Obliteration (H\_M\_O or HMO) Technique**

The Hydro Mechanical Obliteration technique uses an industrial strength high powered pressure washer or customized mobile apparatus to obliterate weeds/vegetation. The HMO apparatus shoots out on average three gallons per minute - less than from a shower head. The water volume depends on the apparatus used and the type of vegetation removal required. The psi (pressure) calibration is adjusted for specific types of vegetation. In the process of "obliterating" the weeds and invasive plants, the remains become a fine grain compost—there is no need to remove and dispose of the material. The mulch that is created by obliterating the undesirable vegetation provides nutrients to the soil.

Immediately after obliterating the weeds, a compost tea mixture can be added, then the area can be sown with native seeds or other vegetation.

HMO can quickly clear away brush and can access hard to reach places like canyons, as well as hard to mow areas like fence lines, along building, around trees, around play ground equipment, and even around delicate desirable vegetation. If nothing is seeded after HMO, unwanted vegetation will sprout up. However, it won't grow as high and will be easier to clear the next time. This method is environmentally friendly and it's fast: On average one licensed operator can clear 1 acre in about 6 to 8 hours. For Invasive/restoration projects, the process is slower: the average is 1/3 to 1/4 acre per day. The patented process can be used only by a licensed operator. A regular power washer can be adapted to do the job or a customized apparatus can be made to order. **To see Video demonstrations:** [www.californiacompliant.com/hmo.html](http://www.californiacompliant.com/hmo.html) (download times and picture size varies per video demos).

**DIRECTIONS**

101 north to Novato

Take San Marin/Atherton Exit.

At light turn left onto San Marin Drive (over freeway)

Pass Firemen's Funds at right

Keep going straight up, over, & down hill

At San Andres 4-way Stop (*kiddy corner to shopping Ctr*)

Turn **left** onto San Andres Drive

The property is on the left in open space between houses.

You will need to drive down the block, and do a

**U-turn** to park along side of the property.

**If you get lost:** 415-328-5706

