



July 16, 2026

Dear Talega Homeowner,

Over the past several days, about 40 homeowners have contacted the HOA to express concerns about the limited resumption of herbicide use in Talega. Some of those concerns referenced recent media coverage regarding the reported cluster of cancer cases in Ladera Ranch.

We understand why this issue is deeply sensitive. Any discussion involving children's health, cancer, environmental exposure, or chemicals in shared community spaces deserves to be treated seriously and respectfully. In relation to the Ladera Ranch cases, we do not believe it would be appropriate for the Association to speculate on causation. We will rely on the findings of the relevant public health authorities and will monitor those developments closely.

We also understand that public concern around herbicide use has increased significantly in recent years, particularly following the controversy surrounding Roundup and glyphosate-based products. That concern is not being dismissed.

First and foremost, we want to remind the community that the members of the Board of Directors are also residents. We are parents, grandparents, neighbors, and volunteers. We share the same parks, walkways, fields, and open spaces. We are conscious of the many forms of environmental exposure that modern life presents, and we take seriously our responsibility to balance health, safety, aesthetics, fire prevention, cost, and practical maintenance across a community of approximately 11,000 residents.

To provide clarity, here are the facts regarding the Association's current weed-management practices:

- Since 2022, which we use as our baseline year, the Association attempted to operate on a 100% herbicide-free basis. Unfortunately, that approach did not work at community scale. Weed intrusion increased materially in certain ornamental, pathway, and hardscape areas, and the results were not sustainable from either an operational or cost standpoint.
- Including the current and anticipated very limited future herbicide use, the Association will maintain a reduction of herbicide use by more than 90%.
- The Association halted the application of all fertilizers and herbicides on fields and open-space areas. We are comfortable with the results of that change and currently expect to continue that practice.
- The Association does not use glyphosate/Roundup products.
- The Association is currently using Fusilade II, manufactured by Syngenta, as a selective post-emergent herbicide in very limited ornamental areas. Its active ingredient is fluazifop-P-butyl, which the U.S. EPA has classified as "not likely to be carcinogenic to humans." That said, we do not treat any herbicide as casually "safe." Any pesticide product must be used strictly in accordance with its label, applicable law, and the Association's own additional controls.
- All applications require written approval from both Association management and the Association's landscape consulting firm, Mosaic.
- The use of the herbicide is limited to only those ornamental plantings that are being overtaken by grassy weeds.

- Vinegar is only used on emerging weeds in hardscape areas such as center medians, pavers and hardscape joints.
- Herbicides are not applied on open fields, turf areas, or fuel modification zones.
- The Association has added controls beyond what is legally required. Advance notifications and on-site warnings are already in place when applications are planned or occur. The Association is researching the use of larger and more visible signage.
- We will continue to evolve our Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a balanced ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention through a combination of biological, cultural, mechanical, and only if necessary, chemical controls. The Board, management, and our landscaping consulting firm will continue to look for products and technologies that can further reduce, and ideally eliminate, the need for chemical treatments. However, those alternatives must actually work, must be capable of being deployed at a large master planned community scale, and must make economic sense for the Association.
- The options we may explore are bioherbicides, electrical weed-control tools, laser-based systems, hot foam or steam systems, and other emerging technologies. Where a solution appears viable, the Association may conduct controlled pilot tests in designated areas before considering broader use.

We recognize that some homeowners would prefer that no herbicide ever be used under any circumstances. We respect that position. At the same time, the Board has a duty to maintain the community responsibly, control costs, reduce fire exposure and preserve common-area aesthetics and make decisions based on facts, expert input, and practical results.

Our goal is not to return to routine or broad chemical use. The opposite is true. The Association has already dramatically reduced herbicide use, eliminated fertilizer use, and adopted a more controlled approval, notification, and oversight process. The current policy is intended to allow only limited, targeted, approved applications where other methods have not produced acceptable results.

We will continue to listen, continue to monitor public health developments, continue to evaluate better alternatives, and continue to adjust our practices when there is a responsible basis to do so.

Thank you to the homeowners who have shared their concerns thoughtfully and respectfully. We appreciate the community's engagement on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Talega Maintenance Corporation