

MARCH AGAINST MONSANTO SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March Against Monsanto San Diego Organizers Consider Event Route with GMO-Free Chipotle Restaurants

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHEN: May 23, 2015, 10 AM (gather) 11AM (Rally) 12PM (March)
WHERE: Balboa Park, Bea Evenson Fountain (Next to Ruben H. Fleet Center)
WHO: Everyone! Free admission and free parking. Family friendly!

SAN DIEGO (April 29, 2015) -- Responding to the announcement that Chipotle Restaurants will be free of GMO ingredients which appeared in the news this week, organizers of the March on Monsanto San Diego event are discussing a change in the marching route to include one or more Chipotle restaurants.

“Chipotle is making an aggressive move to win over health-conscious people who are rightly concerned about the use of GMO ingredients, associated chemicals, and seed control,” said Eva Roufe, an organizer with March on Monsanto San Diego. “Corporate America is starting to take notice that being responsible about GMO ingredients is a no-brainer.”

The third year of the event, the March on Monsanto drew more than 2,400 marchers in the first year, and the quality of the event has improved each year. Organizers expect a large turnout and heavy media coverage this year due to the World Health Organization announcement that Monsanto's Roundup is carcinogenic, lawsuits by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Port District against Monsanto for polluting San Diego Bay with PCBs, and now this stunning announcement that a major restaurant chain is banning GMOs.

The March and Rally is scheduled for May 23, 2015. People are encouraged to arrive at 10am to visit educational displays, followed by the Rally at 11am, and the March, starting at Noon. The event location is the Bea Evenson Fountain at Balboa Park, between the Ruben H. Fleet Space Theater and the Natural History Museum. Parking is plentiful and free.

Organizers pointed out that there are many other local restaurants that are already GMO free, but the announcement by 1700-location Chipotle will definitely be a game changer and other major restaurants will now feel the pressure to make a healthy choice, and farmers will realize that partnering with Monsanto is a bad business decision.

CHIPOTLE GMO FREE

Union Tribune: “CHIPOTLE CHAIN ELIMINATES GMO INGREDIENTS”

<http://www.utsandiego.com/news/2015/apr/28/tp-chipotle-chain-eliminates-gmo-ingredients>

“Chipotle is now GMO-free” -- Cnn Money (2015-04-27) Cristina Alesci --

<http://money.cnn.com/2015/04/26/investing/chipotle-gmo-free/>

SAN DIEGO SUES MONSANTO

The City of San Diego and the San Diego Port District are suing Monsanto for pollution of San Diego Bay with PCBs, invented by Monsanto.

From the March 16 complaint: "PCBs manufactured by Monsanto have been found in Bay sediments and water and have been identified in tissues of fish, lobsters, and other marine life in the Bay. PCB contamination in and around the Bay affects all San Diegans and visitors who enjoy the Bay, who reasonably would be disturbed by the presence of a hazardous, banned substance in the sediment, water, and wildlife.

"PCBs were not only a substantial factor in causing the City and Port District to incur damages, but a primary driving force behind the need to clean up and abate Bay sediments. In addition, fish consumption warnings are posted at locations in and around Bay tidelands warning the public that fish within the Bay may contain contaminants and directing consumption limitations."

The complaint seeks to recoup the costs to not only remove PCBs from the Bay but also pay for the loss of natural resources.

San Diego Reader Coverage: <http://www.sandiegoreader.com/news/2015/mar/16/ticker-monsanto-pay-damaging-san-diego>

Video Coverage by RT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nf3gJF4OJqg>

<http://thinkprogress.org/climate/2015/03/25/3635657/shocker-monsanto-in-trouble-again/>

"San Diego's New Lawsuit Shows Just How Hard It Is To Hold Polluters Accountable" -- excerpt: "Other cities have sued over PCB pollution, but San Diego's case is unique. Other PCB-contaminated areas mostly fall under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 — better known as Superfund — a federal law meant to provide cleanup of the nation's most polluted sites. But San Diego is using a claim of public nuisance to bring a case against Monsanto."

GLYPOSATE AKA ROUNDUP -- SHOULD BE BANNED

Many people have said that there is no reason to fear GMO products, as they are composed of amino acids like any other plant or animal. Although, there is no proof that GMO products are harmless, there are many other reasons to object to Monsanto and the GMO products they sell.

One of their most devastating products is GLYPHOSATE, made by MONSANTO and linked to GMO products.

What is it? Glyphosate is a broad-spectrum herbicide, developed by Monsanto in 1974 and used in their product line including "Roundup." It kills almost all plants when applied.

How does it work? Glyphosate blocks the activity of an enzyme used to make certain important amino acids. Thus, the plant cannot make proteins required for various life processes, resulting in the death of the plant. Genetically modified crops, like corn, wheat, rice, cotton and others have been designed to be "Roundup-Ready" and live even with Roundup applied. Farmer spray this on their fields and it kills all the weeds and leaves only the target crop. It is now pervasive in the environment, being detectable in 75% of air and rain water samples.

Is it harmful to animals? Not directly because animals don't produce those amino acids the same way

as plants do. But it kills other organisms, esp. in our gut, and aquatic life, and has been linked to many human diseases and ailments such as hypertension, stroke, diabetes, obesity, lipoprotein metabolism disorder, Alzheimer's, senile dementia, Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, autism, inflammatory bowel disease, intestinal infections, end stage renal disease, acute kidney failure, cancers of the thyroid, liver, bladder, pancreas, kidney and myeloid leukaemia.

Stop Using Roundup and Glyphosate products at home. A simple alternative is vinegar. Spray on weeds to "burn down" the plant.

Get others to stop using it: Contact your church, school, public playground, and city, county, hospital, etc. landscape maintenance departments and ask them if they use Roundup, and also ask them to stop.

Avoid GMO Foods and Products: Fight for GMO labeling and buy only GMO-free foods and products. GMO-free cotton means farmers are not using roundup on their fields and polluting the environment.

"Monsanto's Toxic Roundup Herbicide Found in 75 Percent of Rain and Air Samples" --
<http://inhabitat.com/monsantos-toxic-herbicide-roundup-found-in-75-percent-of-rain-and-air-samples/>

"Widely Used Herbicide Linked to Cancer -- The World Health Organization's research arm declares glyphosate a probable carcinogen" -- <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/widely-used-herbicide-linked-to-cancer/>

"MIT Researcher's New Warning: At Today's Rate, Half Of All U.S. Children Will Be Autistic By 2025" -- <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M1579>

MIT Researcher Stephanie Senef presentation. Concludes that Glyphosate should be banned from agriculture -- http://people.csail.mit.edu/seneff/glyphosate/Groton_Seneff.pdf

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