



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
Department of Public Works



DATE: May 20, 2010
BOARD MEETING DATE: June 8, 2010
SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING: None
VOTE REQUIRED: Majority

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: James C. Porter, Director of Public Works
SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management Policy

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution adopting a County Integrated Pest Management Policy, which shall serve as a policy document relative to pesticide management on land either owned or managed by the County of San Mateo.

BACKGROUND:

On October 14, 2009, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Municipal Regional Permit (MRP), which established updated permit conditions affecting municipalities in the San Francisco Bay Area. Among the permitting mandates is the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management Policy (IPM) policy by each of the permitted municipalities no later than July 1, 2010.

DISCUSSION:

The County's Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Environmental Health Division of the Health System, and Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures are routinely involved with either the application of pesticides, reporting, or regulatory oversight of pesticide use.

These Departments have met and discussed the development of an IPM policy document which meets the goal of protecting health and safety of County employees and the general public, the environment and water quality, as well as providing sustainable solutions for pest control, through the reduced use of pesticides on property owned or managed by the County to the maximum extent practicable.

Each of these Departments currently operates within the framework of this policy.

Adoption of the policy by your Board will satisfy County reporting mandates, will comply with the requirements of the MRP, and will memorialize the framework which will guide each of these Departments in future management efforts.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the resolution as to form.

Adoption of this resolution contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of an Environmentally Conscious Community by establishing pesticide use guidelines that reflect efforts to control pests through techniques that minimize environmental impacts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The costs associated with the adoption of an IPM policy are considered to be negligible. However, costs associated with implementation of the IPM policy and tracking and reporting on its compliance, as mandated by the new MRP, are estimated to range between \$54,000 and \$74,000 annually.

The requirement affects several departments within the County. It is not yet clear whether the costs could be absorbed by the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program, which is fee based, or whether individual departments would need to absorb the costs based on their required level of participation in the overall permitting process, including compliance and reporting.

There is no anticipated impact to the General Fund, either as a result of the adoption of a County IPM policy or as a result of associated reporting requirements.

JCP:JAL:cv

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cc: Deborah Penny Bennett, Chief Deputy County Counsel
David Holland, Director, Parks and Recreation
Dean Peterson, Director, Environmental Health Services
Fred Crowder, Director, Agricultural Services

bcc: Joseph A. Lo Coco, Deputy Director, Road Services
Mark Chow, Principal Civil Engineer, Utilities-Flood Control-Watershed Protection
Services

County of San Mateo Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy

GOAL

The County of San Mateo (County) seeks to protect the health and safety of its employees and the general public, the environment and water quality, as well as to provide sustainable solutions for pest control, through the reduced use of pesticides on property owned or managed by the County to the maximum extent practicable.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Employees implementing pest management operations will use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques that emphasize non-pesticide alternatives where feasible and, when necessary, employ the least toxic chemicals. Preference will be given to IPM certified contractors or contractors who implement IPM. County departments and their contractors that apply pesticides will develop and maintain an active IPM Plan to ensure the long-term prevention and suppression of pest problems with minimum negative impacts on the health and safety of the community and environment. The County will track employee and contractor pesticide use and prepare an annual report summarizing pesticide use and evaluating pest control activities performed.
2. The County shall encourage pilot projects to demonstrate landscape and structural pest control alternatives, seeking to use the most recent technology, best management practices and least toxic methods for all pest control measures. Pilot projects should include an objective analysis of the effectiveness of the alternative techniques applied.
3. The County will review its purchasing procedures, contracts or service agreements with pesticide applicators and employee training practices to determine what changes can be made to support the goal of pesticide reduction and promote the purchase and use of the least harmful chemicals.
4. The County will perform educational outreach and/or support Countywide or regional efforts to educate residential and commercial pesticide users on a) goals and techniques of IPM, and b) pesticide related water quality issues.

DEFINITIONS

Pesticides are defined as: any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, rodents and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), bacteria or fungi. The term pesticide applies to herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, molluscicides and other substances used to control pests. Antimicrobial agents are not included in this definition of pesticides. In general, the intent of antimicrobial agents is to reduce or mitigate the growth or development of microbial organisms.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides shall be used only if the above techniques are found to be either ineffective or economically infeasible. Pesticide use shall be in accordance with established guidelines, and treatments shall be made with the goal of removing only target organisms. Pest control materials shall be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

IPM techniques could include biological controls (e.g., ladybugs and other natural enemies or predators); physical or mechanical controls (e.g., hand labor or mowing); cultural controls (e.g., mulching, discing, or alternative plant type selection); and reduced risk chemical controls (e.g., soaps or oils).

County owned or managed property includes but is not limited to: parks and open space; golf courses; roadsides; landscaped medians; flood control channels; buildings, structures, and other outdoor property owned or managed by the County.

RESOLUTION NO. 070851

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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RESOLUTION ADOPTING A COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY, WHICH SHALL SERVE AS A POLICY DOCUMENT RELATIVE TO PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT ON LAND EITHER OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that

WHEREAS, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a Municipal Regional Permit (Permit) on October 14, 2009; and

WHEREAS, agencies within the San Francisco Bay Area are mandated to meet the requirements of the Permit; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements of the Permit is the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management Policy; and

WHEREAS, affected County of San Mateo Departments have met and collaboratively developed an Integrated Pest Management Policy for the County of San Mateo, which establishes goals of protecting the health and safety of County employees and the general public; protects the environment and water quality; and provides sustainable pest control solutions through the reduced used of pesticides on County owned or managed property; and

WHEREAS, the Directors of the various Departments impacted by the adoption

a County Integrated Pest Management Policy recommend the Board's approval of that policy, and the Board has considered the policy and concurs with the recommendation.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED that the County Integrated Pest Management Policy be adopted by this Board as the County-wide policy document relating to pesticide use on land either owned or managed by the County of San Mateo.

* * * * *

Regularly passed and adopted this 8th day of June, 2010.

AYES and in favor of said resolution:

Supervisors: MARK CHURCH
CAROLE GROOM
RICHARD S. GORDON
ROSE JACOBS GIBSON
ADRIENNE J. TISSIER

NOES and against said resolution:

Supervisors: NONE

Absent Supervisors: NONE

Richard S. Gordon
President, Board of Supervisors
County of San Mateo
State of California

Certificate of Delivery

I certify that a copy of the original resolution filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County has been delivered to the President of the Board of Supervisors.

Marie L. Peterson
Marie L. Peterson, Deputy
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors