



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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## 2015-2016 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY

### 1. Statement of Goals

It is the goal of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to eliminate the use of pesticides on County property. In establishing this policy, it is acknowledged that this is a long-term goal, which cannot be achieved instantaneously. It is also acknowledged that, even after dedicated review and exploration of all available options, it may not be possible to completely eliminate all pesticide use on County property. However, in those situations where pesticides cannot be completely eliminated, it is the Board's intention that the quantity and the risk level of pesticides which are used be reduced to the maximum degree possible. The Board of Supervisors further establishes the following:

- a. The County shall reduce its use of pesticides through the development and implementation of a comprehensive Integrated Pest Management Policy.
- b. Effective July 1, 2001, and except for pesticides granted an exemption pursuant to Section 2 below, the following pesticides shall not be applied to County property:
  - i. EPA Toxicity Category I pesticides,
  - ii. Pesticides which contain chemicals identified by the State of California as known to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity pursuant to the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, or
  - iii. Pesticides classified as proven human carcinogens by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.
- c. Effective January 1, 2003, and except for pesticides granted an exemption pursuant to Section 2 below, County departments shall not apply EPA Toxicity Category II pesticides on County property.
- d. When pesticides are used on county property, County departments will follow the Integrated Pest Management Guidelines established below.

- e. Contractors applying pesticides to County property shall comply with the terms of this policy.
- f. Effective June 1, 2005, there shall be a three year moratorium on the spraying of pesticides for the control of roadside vegetation, with the exception of precise spot treatments for significant infestations of invasive, highly flammable exotic plant species that can be spread by mowing.
- g. Effective January 28, 2008, the moratorium on spraying of herbicides on County roads is amended to allow implementation of a County Integrated Vegetation Management Program (IVMP). The IVMP permits limited applications of herbicide by means of brushing the materials onto invasive woody plant stumps to prevent re-growth or hand-spraying by means of a back pack sprayer on stands of invasive perennials and grasses. Both applications are to be implemented once only or infrequently in order to prepare difficult sites for long-term, non-herbicidal, management strategies. The IVMP calls for applications in the amount of one or two ounces per study site.

2. Exemptions:

- a. Departments may apply for exemptions to the restrictions imposed by this policy by providing a written request to the Integrated Pest Management Coordinator addressing the required exemption criteria. The IPM Coordinator will review the request and prepare a staff report and recommendation for consideration by the Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group (IPM DAG). The IPM DAG will review the request and recommendation at a public meeting and will issue a decision. Exemption requests and their final dispositions will be reported in the annual reports to the Board of Supervisors.
- b. Exemption criteria include the following:
  - i. Documentation of attempts to find alternatives to the proposed pesticide usage
  - ii. Identification of a specific legal, public health, or safety consideration
  - iii. A specified time frame for the proposed exemption
  - iv. A requirement for continued evaluation of alternatives during the exemption period.
- c. It is the intent of the Board that this policy be followed to the fullest extent possible. However, the policy is not intended to prohibit the application of any pesticides, which are required by state or federal law.
- d. Pesticides used by the Santa Cruz County Mosquito Abatement District are exempt from restrictions imposed by this policy but shall be reviewed as part

of the Integrated Pest Management program to ensure that every effort is being made to use the least toxic pesticides available for this purpose.

- e. The following pesticides are exempt from restrictions imposed by this policy
  - i. Antimicrobials used to protect public health and safety are exempt from prohibitions imposed by this policy. This exemption shall be reviewed annually, and departments using antimicrobials shall develop written protocols and criteria for the use of these agents.
  - ii. Category I pesticides used to control burrowing rodents on the Pajaro and Salsipuedes levees and on athletic fields and are exempt from prohibitions imposed by this policy until July 1, 2016.

### 3. Evaluation

- a. The Integrated Pest Management Coordinator in conjunction with County departments shall annually evaluate progress towards achieving the goals adopted by the Board of Supervisors
- b. The Integrated Pest Management Coordinator will include an evaluation of progress towards achieving the goals in the annual report.

### 4. Public Involvement

- a. The Integrated Pest Management Coordinator will convene one public meeting each year in February to review the County's IPM program and pesticide use.
- b. The IPM Coordinator will convene an Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group (IPM DAG).
  - i. The Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group will work with the IPM Coordinator to review the effectiveness of the IPM policy and program and make recommendations to the County Administrative Officer.
  - ii. The Integrated Pest Management Departmental Advisory Group will include representatives from involved County departments, public health professionals, the Agricultural Commissioner, a representative from Caltrans, and members of the community.

### 5. Reports to Board of Supervisors

- a. The Integrated Pest Management Coordinator will provide an annual report to the Board of Supervisors in June of each year.
- b. The annual report will include the following:

- i. Any recommended modifications to the Integrated Pest Management Policy
- ii. Recommended exemptions to the Integrated Pest Management Policy
- iii. Recommendations for increased staff and materials, if needed, to implement the Integrated Pest Management Policy
- iv. A comparison of the types and amounts of pesticides used annually by County departments
- v. A measure of progress towards achieving the goals established by the Board of Supervisors

## 6. Integrated Pest Management Guidelines

For all pest problems on County property, County departments will utilize the following IPM guidelines:

- a. Perform thorough in-field assessments of each pest problem.
- b. Use pest resistant plants and planting systems that minimize pest infestations.
- c. Establish injury levels and action thresholds for each individual pest species based on how much biological, aesthetic or economic damage the site can tolerate to determine when corrective action must be initiated.
- d. Establish scouting or inspection procedures to monitor pest population levels and severity of the pest problem.
- e. Select corrective actions using the following criteria:
  - i. least disruptive of natural controls
  - ii. least hazardous to human health
  - iii. least toxic to non-target organisms
  - iv. least damaging to the general environment
  - v. most likely to produce permanent reduction of the pest
  - vi. easiest to carry out effectively
  - vii. most cost-effective in the short- and long-term
- f. Modify pest ecosystems to reduce food and living space through physical and cultural practices and the use of biological pest controls.
- g. Maintain an accurate record-keeping system to catalogue the following:
  - i. the identification of the pest
  - ii. the size or density of the pest infestation
  - iii. the geographic distribution of the pest problem
  - iv. complete information on how you treated the pest, including what, how much, where, when, who, cost, and any application difficulties
  - v. the effectiveness of treatment of solving the problem
  - vi. any observable side effects of the treatment on nontarget organisms

- vii. any comments from residents
- h. Recommended modifications to these guidelines may be submitted to the Board for consideration in the annual IPM reports.

## 7. Guidelines for Antimicrobial Usage

The following guidelines will be used by all County departments except where more stringent federal or state requirements are mandated.

Disinfectants will be used primarily in restrooms within County facilities. Disinfectants may also be used in other locations where there is clear evidence that disinfectant is needed.

- a. Routinely disinfected
  - i. Toilets, including walls and tile within the stall and fixtures
  - ii. Urinals and surrounding walls and partitions
  - iii. Sinks, including fixtures, pipes, and surrounding walls
  - iv. All tiles in the restrooms and floors
  - v. Paper towel dispensers, garbage containers and other wall mounted fixtures
- b. Not routinely disinfected
  - i. Mirrors and windows
  - ii. Ceilings
  - iii. Doorknobs in locations other than restrooms
- c. Protocols
  - i. Follow the label (the label is the LAW)
  - ii. Wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when required
  - iii. Accurately dilute product according to the label
  - iv. Allow product contact time as specified on the label
- d. Procedures
  - i. Spray all fixtures, including pipes and faucets with an approved detergent disinfectant mixed or diluted according to the label. Allow product contact time as specified on label (usually 10 minutes contact time).
  - ii. Use a damp rag to thoroughly wipe fixtures and pipes or a clean cloth
  - iii. Always use PPE when handling chemicals or diluting (refer to label or MSDS)
  - iv. Always dilute product to proper ratios according to the label

## 8. Notification of Pesticide Use

County departments applying Toxicity Category I, II, or III pesticides shall comply with the following notification procedures:

- a. Signs shall be posted the day before the application of the pesticide and will remain posted at least four days after the application of the pesticide.
- b. Posting shall only be required in areas where the public can reasonably be expected to frequent and as near as possible to the site of the application.
- c. Signs shall be posted at every entry point where the pesticide is applied if it is applied in an enclosed area, and in highly visible locations around the perimeter of the area where the pesticide is applied if the pesticide is applied in an open area.
- d. Signs shall be of a design that is easily recognizable to the public and workers.
- e. Signs shall contain the name and active ingredient of the pesticide, the target pest, the date of pesticide use, the signal word indicating the toxicity category of the pesticide, the date for re-entry if required, and the name and contact number of the County department responsible for the application.
- f. County Departments shall not be required to post signs in right-of-way locations that the general public does not use for recreation purposes. However, each department that uses pesticides in such right-of-way locations shall develop and maintain a public access telephone number, which will provide the information required in Section VII. E. Information shall be available from this telephone number on any pesticides which will be applied within the next four days or that have been applied within the last four days.
- g. County Departments using pesticidal baits shall not be required to post notification signs. However, each department using pesticidal baits shall post a permanent sign at the facility where the baits are used. The sign shall indicate the type of baits used in the area, the target pests, the area or areas where the baits are commonly placed, and the contact number of the department responsible for the bait application.
- h. Recommended modifications to these notification procedures may be submitted to the Board for consideration in the annual IPM reports.

## 9. Training

In addition to all training mandated by State and federal regulations, County departments will provide training in the following areas to staff who are responsible for applying pesticides or who supervise staff who apply pesticides:

- a. Principles of Integrated Pest Management
- b. Toxicology of commonly used pesticides
- c. General introduction to the evaluation of alternative strategic control options

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- d. Monitoring protocols for different pest problems, including record keeping; and
  - e. General introduction to identification of plant diseases and common pest problems procedures for developing site-specific IPM implementation plans. Recommended modifications to these training procedures may be submitted to the Board for consideration in the annual IPM reports.

10. Early Stage Design Consultation with IPM Coordinator

County departments shall consult with the IPM Coordinator when they begin planning projects involving the installation of vegetation or other features that have pest management implications. The IPM Coordinator shall consult the full IPM DAG when appropriate and feasible. The IPM Coordinator shall analyze the proposed actions and make recommendations as needed for alternatives that would reduce the need for pesticides.