

**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY
January 2012**

To protect public health, county resources and the environment it will be the policy of Contra Costa County to manage pests within county pest management programs in and on county maintained properties and facilities, using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles and techniques.

The mission is to promote the combined use of physical, cultural, biological and chemical control methods to effectively manage pests with minimal risk to humans and the environment.

For the purposes of this policy the County adopts the Integrated Pest Management definition provided by the University of California Statewide IPM Project: Integrated Pest Management 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 are used only after monitoring indicates that they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organisms. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, to beneficial and non-target organisms, and to the environment.

The goals of this countywide policy are to:

1. Minimize risks to the general public, staff and the environment as a result of pest control activities conducted by County staff and contractors.
2. Create, implement and periodically review written IPM plans in the Agriculture, General Services, Health, and Public Works Departments specific to their operational needs and consistent with the U.C. definition above and this policy.
3. Promote availability, public awareness and public input into written county pest management plans and records.
4. Create public awareness of IPM through education.

To achieve these goals the County has established the following objectives

1. Require County departments to routinely use Integrated Pest Management.
2. Require County pest control contracts to incorporate County IPM policies and practices.

3. Require Departments to report annually on the development and implementation of IPM programs.
4. Maintain a County IPM Coordinator position that reports to the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors.
5. Maintain an IPM Advisory Committee that provides advice to the Board of Supervisors and assists Departments in reviewing pest control alternatives and related costs or impacts.
6. Provide annual IPM training and outreach programs to address the needs of County Departments and employees.

Require County Departments to Routinely Use Integrated Pest Management:

- The Agriculture, General Services, Health and Public Works Departments who use pest management techniques when providing services are required to develop a written IPM Plan, or its equivalent, and designate an IPM Coordinator responsible for implementation.

Require County Pest Control Contracts to Incorporate County IPM Policies and Practices

- All County Departments that contract for pest management services will insure that County IPM policies and practices are adhered to by all licensed pest control contractors performing work on county maintained properties and facilities.

Require Departments to Report Annually on the Development and Implementation of IPM Programs.

- It is understood that development and implementation of IPM programs will take time. Department IPM Coordinators will prepare annual reports on department pest control activities to the County Administrator. The department annual reports will be reviewed by the IPM Advisory Committee. The IPM Advisory Committee shall compile the information into an annual report that will be submitted to the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors.

Maintain a County IPM Coordinator Position that Reports to the Board of Supervisors.

- In recognition that development, implementation and oversight of a County IPM Program require allocation of resources, the position of County IPM Coordinator has been established and funded. The County IPM Coordinator serves as a resource for Department Heads to insure compliance with the County IPM policy. The County IPM Coordinator is required to serve as staff to the IPM Advisory Committee to

assist Department Heads in identifying priorities and in acquiring data to properly evaluate pest control needs and appropriate solutions.

- The County IPM Coordinator will provide annual updates to the PEHAB and Fish and Wildlife Committees.

Maintain an IPM Advisory Committee that Provides Advice to the Board of Supervisors and Assists Departments in Reviewing Pest Control Alternatives and Related Costs or Impacts.

- An IPM Advisory Committee has been created consisting of the Agricultural Commissioner, or designee; General Services Deputy Director, or designee; Public Works Deputy Director or designee; Health Services Department representative; County/Unincorporated County Storm Water Program representative; one Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board member; a public member from the County Fish & Wildlife Committee; a current pest management contractor with the General Services Department; one member of an environmental organization; three (3) members of the public at large, and one public member alternate. The Advisory Committee will serve as a resource to help both Department Heads and the Board of Supervisors review and improve existing programs and the processes used for making pest management decisions.
- The IPM Advisory Committee may form subcommittees of its members to research and explore specific issues that come before the Committee. The goal of a subcommittee is to provide a working forum for interaction and for information exchange among experts and staff focusing on issues needing in-depth consideration.
- The IPM Advisory Committee may use Technical Advisory Committees to develop information regarding pest control decisions. The IPM Technical Advisory Committee may include representatives from the East Bay Regional Park District, Contra Costa Mosquito & Vector Control District, Contra Costa Water District, the University of California Cooperative Extension, Pesticide Applicators Professional Association and/or Pest Control Operators of California and other appropriate representatives with expertise in a specific field.
- Information regarding preferred pest control solutions must include data regarding comparative efficacy, cost, environmental impact and hazards to the public and applicator. Information and recommendations must be based on the best science available.
- The IPM Advisory Committee will also work with the County IPM Coordinator to develop IPM training programs for County Departments and their employees to assist in compliance with the county's IPM policy. Additional support could also be provided to County Departments who wish to develop public outreach programs to address environmental and public health concerns.

Provide Annual IPM Training and Outreach Programs to Address the Needs of County Departments and Employees.

- Training programs will be developed under the direction of County IPM Coordinator with the concurrence of the IPM Advisory Committee to ensure that County employees understand IPM techniques and County policy. Utilizing resources such as the U.C. Pest Management Guidelines that have been developed by the University of California Statewide IPM Program, training classes on integrated pest management techniques will be developed and made available for County employees.
- Public outreach programs to address environmental and health concerns will also be developed to compliment existing county programs.

