



February 17, 2015

TO: Transportation, Water and Infrastructure Committee
Supervisor Andersen, Chair
Supervisor Piepho, Vice Chair r

FROM: Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

SUBJECT: Progress Report on IPM Activities

PERIOD COVERED: December 2014 through February 2015

IPM Advisory Committee

1. Staffed the January 14, 2015 meeting of the IPM Committee (the Committee).

The Committee continued their discussion of work priorities for the year 2015 and decided to create 2 subcommittees, one on rodents and one on weeds. Since these are extremely broad topics, the subcommittees will need to discuss how to narrow their focus in their first meetings.

The term for the Environmental Organization seat, which was held by Scott Cashen of Mt. Diablo Audubon, ended on December 31, 2014. The Clerk of the Board received one application for the seat from Sonce Devries of Island Watch Conservation Science. Note that during the previous recruitment for the Environmental Organization seat in 2012, the Clerk of the Board received 2 applications. Ms. Devries was interviewed by the Internal Operations Committee on December 1, 2014, and she was appointed by the full Board on December 9, 2014. Ms. Devries spent several years as the IPM Coordinator for the Fish and Wildlife Service, so she will be an asset to the IPM Committee.

Structural IPM

2. Continued monitoring the work of Pestec, the County's structural IPM contractor.

Animals, mainly feral cats, have been entering crawl spaces at various Head Start facilities. Pestec has been using a hot pepper product to repel the animals. When the technicians are sure the animals are no longer entering the crawl space, the technicians have sealed all the openings where the animals were entering.

Pestec has created a new report with photos for the County to alert Facilities staff to conditions that are conducive to pest entry or breeding.

Bed Bugs

3. Continued to organize bi-monthly meetings of the Contra Costa Bed Bug Task Force.
4. With the assistance of Supervisor Andersen's office, helped to distribute a bed bug management survey to apartment owners in Contra Costa County. This work is part of the bed bug grant that will compare "conventional" bed bug treatments with an IPM program for bed bugs in multi-family apartment buildings in Contra Costa County and in southern California. Partners on this project include U.C. researchers, pest control companies in both southern California and the Bay Area, Monument Impact (formerly the Chavez Center) in Concord, and this County's IPM Coordinator.
5. Responded to 15 calls from residents asking for assistance with bed bug problems.



6. Participated in an EPA-sponsored webinar on bed bugs in schools and began exploring the possibilities of collaborating with EPA Region IX in San Francisco on bed bug outreach for schools in Contra Costa County.
7. Attended the 2015 Global Bed Bug Summit in Denver to learn about the latest research on bed bug biology, monitoring, and control.
8. Met with staff at the Bay Area Rescue Mission in Richmond to discuss bed bug prevention.
9. Met with County Code Enforcement, Environmental Health, County Homeless Services, and the Hazardous Materials Ombudsman to discuss bed bug and code violation issues at Love a Child Mission in Pittsburg.

IPM in Contra Costa Cities

10. Continued work with the Cities of El Cerrito and San Pablo and the County Clean Water Program on guidance documents for city IPM coordinators.
 - a. This ad hoc committee has produced 7 guidance documents on topics that include structural IPM, landscape IPM, and plant health care, and has developed model language for an IPM Policy and both structural and landscape IPM contracts. These documents will help Contra Costa County municipalities to comply with the Municipal Regional Permit to discharge stormwater. This permit mandates the use of IPM.
 - b. The documents will be laid out in a consistent and easy to read format and collected in a notebook. They will also be available electronically.
 - c. The ad hoc committee is planning a training session for municipal staff in April to alert them to the availability of the documents and to explain how they can be used.

Other Projects

11. Met with the Alameda County IPM Coordinator to provide consultation on his IPM program.
12. Updated a document responding to various concerns from the public about the County's IPM program (see County Staff Responses to Issues Raised by the Public, attached).