CITY OF VALLEJO

Integrated Pest Management Policy

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City of Vallejo IPM Policy

The City of Vallejo (City) uses Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to manage pests on City-maintained facilities. For the purposes of this policy, the City 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 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 minimize risks to human health, to beneficial and non-target organisms, and to the environment.

Goals

- Ensure effective, economic pest management on City-maintained properties while minimizing health risks to the public and City staff that could result from pest management activities.
- Protect environmental quality by preventing pollutants from entering surface and ground water.
- Comply with requirements in the City's stormwater National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
- Promote transparency of City pest-management actions.
- Increase public awareness of IPM.

Implementation

The IPM Coordinator will develop and periodically review an IPM Program, which will apply to all City pest control activities. The Program will include:

- Appointment of a single person or point of responsibility within the City for citywide IPM implementation and program evaluation.
- Adherence to IPM decision-making steps for managing pests on city-owned and maintained properties and facilities.
- Participation in countywide and regional efforts to further relevant policies and activities by the US Environmental Protection Agency, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and the Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner.
- Maintenance of accurate records on IPM implementation and pesticide use.
- Ongoing and periodic staff training.
- Development of standard IPM Operating Procedures for key pests.
- Inclusion of City IPM policies and practices in City contracts or purchase orders for pest management.
- Maintenance of a list of available expert resources that may be accessed by staff.

IPM Decision-Making Steps

1. Based on field observations, evaluate locations and sites where pest problems commonly occur to properly identify the pest, determine pest population size and location, and identify any natural enemy populations.
2. Identify conditions that contribute to the development of pest populations, and identify measures that could be employed to prevent and manage pest populations.

   Prevention measures may include:

   - Design, construction, and maintenance of landscapes and buildings to reduce and eliminate pest habitats.
   - Modification of management practices including watering, fertilizing, mulching, waste management, and food storage to discourage the development of a pest population or to increase the health and resilience of a landscape or particular plant.
   - Modification of pest ecosystems to reduce food, water sources, harborage, and access to buildings.
   - Education of staff and the public about the connection between pests and the availability of food, harborage, and access, and the role humans can play in preventing and reducing pest problems.
3. Determine treatment thresholds that are based on what level of biological, aesthetic, economic, or other effect is tolerable;
4. When a pest population reaches its treatment threshold, choose a set of treatment strategies that is appropriate for the site and the pest:
   - Evaluate non-pesticide management strategies before considering the use of pesticides.
   - Prioritize the use of physical controls such as mowing weeds, using traps, and installing barriers.
   - Whenever possible, create landscapes that encourage naturally occurring insect parasites and predators (biological controls) to help control pest insects.
   - When pesticides are necessary, select reduced-risk pesticides and use the minimum amounts needed to be effective.
   - Apply pesticides at the most effective treatment time, based on pest biology, monitoring, and other variables, such as weather, seasonal changes in wildlife use, and local conditions.
   - Whenever possible, use pesticide application methods, such as spot treatments and containerized baits, that minimize opportunities for mobilization of the pesticide in stormwater runoff and minimize effects on non-target organisms.
5. Evaluate the results of treatments to improve pest management.

IPM Program

IPM Coordinator. The Environmental Services Manager is the City's IPM Coordinator. The IPM Coordinator is responsible for coordinating, tracking, and reporting implementation of the City's IPM Program.

Tracking Pesticide Use. The IPM Coordinator is responsible for maintaining accurate records of pesticide use that are accessible for reference. A format for tracking pesticide use is attached.

Interface with the County Agricultural Commissioner. The IPM Coordinator will periodically disseminate to staff information on how to identify when pesticides are being applied inconsistent with DPR regulations and how to report such incidents to the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Staff Training. All City employees who within the scope of their duties apply or use pesticides will be periodically trained in IPM practices and the City's IPM Policy. Trainings may be organized locally or staff may attend countywide or regional training sessions. The IPM Coordinator will track employee attendance at training sessions.

Standard IPM Operating Procedures. The City will follow Standard IPM Operating Procedures. The IPM Coordinator will maintain a file of current Standard IPM Operating Procedures to be used by City employees and will follow up to confirm procedures are being implemented.

Information Resources for Staff. The IPM Coordinator will act as a resource to City staff to help identify when Standard Operating Procedures are not applicable or sufficient to solve a pest problem, to determine the best course of action consistent with IPM principles, and to access expert resources when needed.

Public Outreach. Public outreach efforts will include distribution of information, as appropriate, such as "Our Water, Our World" and "EcoWise Certified IPM Certification in Structural Pest Management" or equivalent programs. The IPM Coordinator will coordinate and keep records of the following:

a. A point of contact for the public to obtain information on IPM techniques.
b. The City's, countywide, and regional advertising campaigns that focus on reducing the impact of urban pesticide use.
c. The City's outreach to pest control operators (PCOs) and landscapers, or contributions to countywide or regional efforts to promote IPM to PCOs and landscapers.
d. Placement of messages focused on reducing the impact of urban pesticide use in the City's newsletters or other publications.
e. Distribution of IPM information and resources at public outreach and citizen involvement events and City websites.
f. Distribution of information about less-toxic pest management to school-age children.
g. Updates and status reports to municipal officials.

Contract Provisions. The IPM Coordinator will review contract provisions, or addenda to purchase orders, issued by all City departments that contract for pest management services to ensure City IPM policies and practices are adhered to by all contractors performing pest management work on City maintained properties and facilities.

Stormwater NPDES Annual Report. The IPM Coordinator will prepare the portion of the City's stormwater NPDES Annual Report related to Pesticides Toxicity Control.