

## **CONTRA COSTA COUNTY INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**

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.
1. Require County departments to create, implement and periodically review written IPM programs specific to their operational needs and consistent with the U.C. definition above and this policy.
1. Promote availability, public awareness and public input into written county pest management programs and records.
1. Help create public awareness and education of IPM techniques.

To achieve these goals the County has established the following objectives:

1. Require County departments to use IPM programs.
1. Incorporate County IPM policies and practices into county pest control contracts.
1. Require annual reporting of development and implementation of IPM programs.
1. Create or designate a County IPM Coordinator to report to the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors.

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1. Create an IPM Advisory Committee to assist Departments in reviewing pest control alternatives and related costs or impacts.
  
1. Provide annual IPM training and outreach programs to address the needs of County Departments and employees.

**Require Departments to Use IPM Programs:**

- The Agriculture, General Services, Health and Public Works Departments who use pest management techniques when providing services will be required to develop a written IPM Program and designate an IPM Coordinator responsible for implementation. These Departmental IPM Coordinators will be members of the County's IPM Advisory Committee.
  
- Departments who do not use pest management techniques when providing services to the public will designate Facilities Coordinators who will receive periodic training in the County IPM program and IPM concepts. Facilities Coordinators will be responsible for adherence with County IPM policies at their designated sites.

**Incorporate County IPM Policies and Practices in County Pest Control Contracts**

- General Services will work with the IPM Advisory Committee to develop Pest Control Contract Specifications that will insure the County's IPM Policy and Practices are adhered to by all licensed pest control contractors performing work on county maintained properties and facilities.

**Require Annual Reporting of 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. Facilities Coordinators will also annually report any pest control activities that have taken place at their site. 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.

**Create or Designate a County IPM Coordinator to Report to the Board of Supervisors.**

- In recognition that development, implementation and oversight of a County IPM Program requires allocation of resources, the position of County IPM Coordinator should be established and funded. The County IPM Coordinator will serve as a resource for Department Heads to insure compliance with the County IPM policy. The County IPM Coordinator is required to also work as part of the IPM Advisory Committee to assist Department Heads in identifying priorities and in acquiring data to properly evaluate pest control needs and appropriate solutions.

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- The County IPM Coordinator will serve as chair of the IPM Advisory Committee.
- The County IPM Coordinator will provide two annual updates to the PEHAB and Fish and Wildlife Committees.

**Create an IPM Advisory Committee to Assist Departments in Reviewing Pest Control Solutions and Related Costs or Impacts.**

- An IPM Advisory Committee will be created consisting of the County IPM Coordinator, Department IPM Coordinators, a University of California technical and advisory member, one Public and Environmental Health Advisory Board member, a public member from the County Fish & Wildlife Committee and one representative selected to represent both the Pesticide Applicators Professional Association and the Pest Control Operators of California. 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 of making pest management decisions.
- The IPM Advisory Committee may use Technical Advisory Committees to develop information regarding pest control decisions. The IPM Technical Advisory Committee will include a representative from 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 would 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 Department Facilities Coordinators understand IPM techniques and County policy. Utilizing resources such as the U.C. Pest Management Guidelines that have been developed by

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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.

