

POLICY TITLE: CITY OF SANTA CRUZ PESTICIDE USE POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

It shall be the policy of the City of Santa Cruz for City departments and City contractors who apply pesticides to City property to eliminate or reduce pesticide applications on City property to the maximum extent feasible.

The City, in carrying out its operations, shall assume pesticides are potentially hazardous to human and environmental health. City departments shall give first priority to available non-pesticide alternatives when considering the use of pesticides on City property. For all pest problems on City property, City departments shall follow the procedures outlined in the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program. Additionally, the City shall develop and implement a public education program to inform the public about the dangers of toxic chemicals.

GOALS OF THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The goal of an IPM program is to reduce or eliminate the use of chemicals by the evaluation and selection of the least disruptive alternative control strategy for the elimination of pests and plant diseases. The goal of this policy of the City of Santa Cruz is to eliminate the application of all Toxicity Category I and Category II pesticide products and to restrict pesticide product use to those identified within Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists. Priority will be given to eliminating pesticides near watercourses and riparian areas. An annual report on pesticide use will be presented to the City council to evaluate progress in achieving these goals.

The principles of an Integrated Pest Management program require a careful evaluation of the pest control problem and the selection of the least disruptive control strategy by an analysis of available alternative strategic control options to the application of pesticides. The application of pesticides will remain an option if alternative control options are not effective.

Alternative strategic control options include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) habitat management (changing the biological environment)
- (2) maintenance practices (modifying watering, mulching, waster disposal etc.)
- (3) physical controls (use of mechanical removal, traps, and barriers)
- (4) biological controls ( use of natural enemies)
- (5) re-design (modifying landscape design)

## DEFINITIONS

Whenever used in this Policy, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below.

- (a) "Anti-microbial agent" means any substance or mixture of substances intended for inhibiting the growth of, or destroying any bacteria, fungi pathogenic to man and other animals, or viruses declared to be pests under Food and Agricultural Code Section 12754.5, except slime control agents, substances intended for use in or on humans or other animals, and use in or on processed food, beverages or pharmaceuticals. Anti-microbial agents include, but are not limited to, disinfectants, sanitizers, bacteriostats, sterilizers, fungicides and fungistats applied to inanimate surfaces, and commodity preservatives and protectants applied to raw materials or manufactured products.
- (b) "City department" means any department of the City of Santa Cruz and includes any pesticide applicator hired by a City department to apply pesticides on City property. City department does not include any other local agency or any federal or state agency, including but not limited to school districts.
- (c) "City Manager" means the City Manager of the City of Santa Cruz or the City Manager's designee.
- (d) "Contract" means a binding written agreement, including but not limited to a contract, lease, permit, license or easement between a person, firm, corporation or other entity, including a governmental entity, and the City, which grants a right to use or occupy property of the City for a specified purpose or purposes.
- (e) "Contractor" means a person, firm, corporation or other entity, including a governmental entity, that enters into a contract with the City.
- (f) "Integrated pest management" means a decision-making process for managing pests that uses monitoring to determine pest injury levels and combines biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to minimize health, environmental and financial risks. The method uses extensive knowledge about pests, such as infestation thresholds, life histories, environmental requirements and natural enemies to complement and facilitate biological and other natural control of pests. The method uses the least toxic and least hazardous pesticides as defined herein only as a last resort to controlling pests.
- (g) "Pesticide" means pesticide as defined in Section 12753 of the California Food and Agricultural Code. This definition includes herbicides and fungicides.
- (h) "Toxicity Category I Pesticide Product" means any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category I under Section 156.10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.
- (i) "Toxicity Category II Pesticide Product" means any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category II under Section 156.10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(j) "Toxicity Category III Pesticide Product" means any pesticide product that meets United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for Toxicity Category III under Section 156. 10 of Part 156 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

(k) "IPM Coordinator " means a qualified staff position with expertise in Integrated Pest Management responsible for managing the City's IPM Program and administering the Pesticide Use Policy.

(l) "Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists" means three maintained lists of pesticide products acceptable for use within the City's IPM Program. Pesticides on the Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists will be screened using a tiered hazard ranking system and designated within one of three lists. The three lists are:

- "Allowed" : Those pesticides screened using a tiered hazard ranking system and placed into the "Allowed", "Limited Use" or "Limited Use of Special Concern" sub-groups.
  - o "Allowed" sub-group pesticides have a hazard ranking indicating low toxicity and can be used as part of a comprehensive IPM program at the discretion of trained city pest management personnel.
  - o "Limited Use" sub-group pesticides have a hazard ranking indicating moderate toxicity and may be used only in limited predetermined situations and conditions.
  - o "Limited Use of Special Concern" sub-group pesticides can only be used under limited predetermined situations and conditions. These pesticides are used to manage a pest that currently lacks an effective non-chemical alternative and are reviewed at least annually. The pesticide will be removed from the list as soon as a suitable IPM method or less hazardous pesticide is identified for replacement.
- "Exemption Required" : Those pesticides that may be used only on a one-time basis during an emergency when an exemption has been granted or when there is a failure to adequately manage a pest after using all non-chemical methods and "Allowed List" pesticides.
- "Research" : Those pesticides currently being examined for inclusion onto either the "Allowed List" or the "Exemption Required List".

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) PROGRAM

Upon the adoption by the City Council of the City of Santa Cruz of the City Pesticide Use Policy, each City department will be required to submit an IPM Implementation Plan for approval by the IPM Coordinator within a year from the date of adoption and on January 31 of each subsequent calendar year.

All City departments shall implement the IPM program in the following manner:

- (1) Conduct staff training in the following areas:
  - (a) principles of an Integrated Pest Management program
  - (b) toxicology of commonly used pesticides (Category I, II, III)

- (c) general introduction to the evaluation of alternative strategic control options
  - (d) monitoring protocols for different pest problems, including record keeping
  - (e) general introduction to identification of plant diseases and common pest problems
  - (f) procedures for developing site-specific IPM implementation plans
- (2) Prepare a Preliminary IPM Implementation Plan which would include the following:
- (a) comprehensive and site-specific surveys of the types and quantities of chemicals and anti-microbial agents currently used
  - (b) identification of pests and plant diseases commonly encountered
  - (c) alternative strategic control options adopted to date, including monitoring data
  - (d) comprehensive and site-specific alternative strategic control options proposed for adoption in the next fiscal year
  - (e) an estimate of costs associated with the adoption of the proposed alternative strategic control options
- (3) City staff shall develop appropriate language for all City contractors requiring compliance with the City's Integrated Pest Management program to be included in all applicable City contracts.
- (4) Prepare Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists that designates the pesticide products acceptable for use within the City's IPM Program. All pesticides included on the Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists are to be used only after comprehensive IPM programs are in place to improve sanitation and other pest-prevention measures and to implement non-chemical management methods. If such a pest management program proves insufficient to solve a pest problem, then pesticides listed on the Reduced-Risk Pesticide Lists may be integrated into the management program and utilized according to any restrictions specified for each pesticide product.

## EXEMPTIONS

Nothing in this Policy is intended to apply to pesticide applications that are required to comply with federal, state, or local laws or regulations.

This Policy shall not apply to the use of any pesticide for the purpose of improving or maintaining water quality at water treatment plants, wastewater treatment plants, reservoirs and related collection, distribution and treatment facilities, or the treatment of sewage or to the use of anti-microbial agents for the purpose of protecting public health and safety in the provision of health care and the treatment of water in public swimming pools.

A City department may request in exemption from the IPM Coordinator under this Policy, whose recommendation will be forwarded to the City Manager for action. The City Council shall be notified of any exemptions requested, any exemptions granted, and a list of all exemption requests and their disposition shall be included in an annual report to Council.

## NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDES USE

Any City department or contractor that uses Category I, Category II or Category III pesticide shall comply with the following notification procedures:

- (1) Signs shall be posted two (2) working days before the application of the pesticide product and will remain posted at least four days after application of the pesticide.
- (2) Posting shall be required only in areas where people can reasonably be expected to frequent and as near as practical to the site of application.
- (3) Signs shall be posted (i) at every entry point where the pesticide is applied if the pesticide is applied in an enclosed area, and (ii) in highly visible locations around the perimeter of the area where the pesticide is applied if the pesticide is applied in an open area.
- (4) Signs shall be of a standardized design that are easily recognizable to the public and workers.
- (5) Signs shall contain the name and active ingredient of the pesticide product the target pest, the date of pesticide use, the signal word indicating the toxicity category of the pesticide product, the date for re-entry, if any is required, to the area treated, and the name and contact number of the City department responsible for the application.
- (6) Posting requirements shall not apply to areas and facilities which are exempt under this policy, except facilities which are open to the public for recreational or educational purposes.
- (7) City departments using baits shall not be required to post notification signs. However, each City department that uses 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 City department responsible for the bait application.
- (8) Individuals may request from the Parks and Recreation Department advance written notification of pesticide uses in the City of Santa Cruz.

AUTHORIZATION:      Adopted by Resolution No. NS-24,067, November 10, 1998.

Revised by Resolution No. NS-26,405, October 28, 2003