



CITY OF SAN RAMON  
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)  
POLICY AND PROGRAM

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## **IPM DEFINITION AND PLAN GOALS**

The City of San Ramon implements Integrated Pest Management (IPM) to manage pests at all of its public buildings, parks, landscaped grounds, public right of way and natural areas. Pests covered include insects and other invertebrate pests, mites, rodents, birds, weeds, diseases of landscape plants, trees, and turfgrass. For the purposes of this policy, the City adopts the integrated pest management definition provided by the University of California Statewide IPM Program:

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.

Through use of a combination of preventive, suppressive, and curative pest control methods, IPM optimizes pest control effectiveness and reduces problems that can result from reliance on a single method. The IPM method does not usually include eradication as a practical or cost-effective goal.

- Ensure effective, economic pest management on City property while minimizing health risks to the public and City staff, or contractors 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 NPDES permit.
- Protects non-target species through best IPM practices.
- Reduces the need for pesticides by using several pest management methods.
- Promote transparency of City pest-management policy and actions.
- Increase public awareness of IPM.
- Implement the principles of IPM recognizing the established pest and disease triangle factors. For a pest problem to exist there must be:

1. **A pest**
2. **A susceptible host**
3. **A favorable environment**

**Elimination of any one of the above will effectively mitigate/control natural pest problems.**

**The City may implement any combination of the least toxic pest control methods including but not limited to: cultural, biological, mechanical, and chemical, as permitted by State and Local laws and regulations.**

## **IPM MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Structural and landscape pests can pose a significant problem to people, property and the environment. Pesticides can also pose risks to people, property, and the environment. It is therefore

the Policy of City of San Ramon to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) procedures for control of structural and landscape pests.

Pests will be managed to reduce any potential human health and/or environmental hazards, to protect against a significant threat to public safety, to prevent damage to City of San Ramon structure or property, and to preserve/enhance the quality of life for the public and staff.

The choice of using chemical pesticides will be based on a review of all other known options and a determination that these options may not be desirable or feasible. Cost or staffing consideration alone will not be adequate justification for the use of chemical control agents. Selected non-chemical pest management methods will be implemented whenever possible to provide the desired control. It is the policy of the City of San Ramon to use the least toxic IPM principles to manage pest populations adequately and safely. The full range of alternatives, including no action, will be considered. When it is determined that a pesticide must be used in order to meet the pest management goals, the least hazardous material will be chosen.

This Plan applies to all City facilities and all maintenance activities. This plan DOES NOT include management of structures, parks or grounds within the City limits that are privately owned, for private use, and/or managed by private entities such as business / industrial property, HOAs or property management companies.

## **IPM IMPLEMENTATION**

Implementation of a successful IPM Plan relies on the coordinated efforts of City employees and contractors / vendors across the organization. To ensure necessary employee communication, training, contractor selection and public coordination, the Director will designate a **City IPM Plan Administrator**. The IPM Plan Administrator will be responsible for IPM implementation, staff training, annual reporting, public outreach and updating of the IPM Plan when needed. The IPM Plan Administrator will assist site IPM coordinators as needed in developing specific pest control plan, will track citywide pesticide usage and trends, and will research new IPM strategies to address the City's pest issues.

The City of San Ramon will contract with commercial pest control company(s) with a license issued by the California State Structural Pest Control Board or landscape maintenance company(s) who possess a Pest Control Business License and a Qualified Applicator Certificate (QAC) or a Qualified Applicator License (QAL) or a Pest Control Advisor (PCA) License issued by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. The contractor shall provide evidence of sufficient expertise in pest control and IPM principles and practices and comply with the City of San Ramon IPM Policy.

The City's IPM Administrator will coordinate with the Stormwater Program Manager to 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 IPM implementation and program evaluation (City IPM Plan Administrator).
- Adherence to IPM decision-making steps for managing pests on city-owned and maintained properties and facilities.
- Inspection of all facilities and grounds will be conducted during routine maintenance activities by City personnel or by pest management contractors to determine if the City Facilities, Parks, and Landscaping have any conducive conditions for pests and to develop a list of structural and landscape improvements needed, if any.

- 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, as appropriate.
- 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 PROGRAM AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

*IPM Administrator:* The IPM Administrator is responsible for IPM implementation, staff training, annual reporting, public outreach, and updating of the IPM Plan when needed.

*IPM Coordinator(s).* The IPM Coordinator(s) is responsible for developing plans to address specific pest problems at assigned location(s). Site IPM implementation shall include: identifying key pests, monitoring, establishing threshold levels, coordinating pest prevention and suppression measures, 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.



Appendix E\_Pest  
Management Record.

*Interface with the County Agricultural Commissioner.* The IPM Administrator 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 oversee and monitor applications or use of 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 Administrator will track employee attendance at training sessions.

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

*Information Resources for Staff.* The IPM Administrator 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 the City's 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 Administrator will coordinate with the Stormwater Program Manager to keep records of the following:

- A point of contact for the public to obtain information on IPM techniques.
- The City's, countywide, and regional advertising campaigns that focus on reducing the impact of urban pesticide use.
- 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.
- Placement of messages focused on reducing the impact of urban pesticide use in the City's newsletters or other publications.
- Distribution of IPM information and resources at public outreach and citizen involvement events and City websites.
- Distribution of information about less-toxic pest management.
- Updates and status reports to municipal officials.

*Contract Provisions.* The IPM Administrator 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 Administrator will coordinate with the Stormwater Program Manager to prepare the portion of the City's stormwater NPDES Annual Report related to Pesticides Toxicity Control.

The IPM Coordinator and staff will be educated about the potential pest problems and the IPM policies and procedures to be used to achieve the desired pest management objectives.

The IPM Coordinator will maintain records of pesticide use and will notify the City of San Ramon staff of upcoming pesticide treatments. Notices will be posted in designated areas at each site if required.

Pesticide purchase will be limited to the amount authorized for use in one year. Pesticide will be stored and disposed in accordance with the label directions and state regulations. Pesticides will be stored in an appropriate secure site not accessible to persons or unauthorized personnel.

Pesticide applicators will be educated, trained, and supervised in the principles and practices of integrated pest management and use of pesticides. They will follow regulations and label precautions as required by state law.

Applicators will be certified and comply with the City of San Ramon IPM Policy.

Any pesticide applications made at School Park sites must be in compliance with the San Ramon Valley Unified School District IPM Policy and the Healthy Schools Act of 2000 (Assembly Bill 2260), including written public notification, posting and pest control products to be used.

## **IPM DECISION-MAKING STEPS**

1. **Identify:** Species identification of pests is essential because pests differ in behavior and life cycle, and because these characteristics affect the methods used for management. An accurate identification is the first step in understanding a pest's life cycle, behavior, preferred habitats, hosts and food sources. Proper identification allows the pest management specialist to properly act on pest and eliminate the risk of unnecessary treatments on a misidentified pest.

\* Most species are NOT pests but are contributing members of the broader ecosystem.

2. **Monitor:** Monitor pest populations over time and determine if there are sufficient numbers of pests present to be concerned about potential damage. Pest populations are dynamic and go up and down in response to many factors. Pest populations may decline due to natural forces. Inspect for 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. **Action Threshold:** An action threshold defines the point above which specific pests cannot be tolerated, thus initiating a pest-specific treatment action. Action thresholds may be based on different criteria including: health problems associated with pests, pest damage resulting in economic loss and/or aesthetic damage to plants or buildings. Public health threats should take precedence over other factors.

\* The presence of some pests does not in itself necessarily require action.

4. **Treatment:** 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.

4. **Evaluation:** Evaluate the results of treatments to improve pest management. Effective evaluation is key to the continuing success of any treatment. Continue to monitor for pests and to document maintenance and sanitation needs.

## **IPM RESOURCES**

**UC Statewide IPM Program;** The UC Statewide IPM Program provides practical information on pest management techniques and identification for a broad range of California pests.

<http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu>

**Contra Costa County IPM Program:** 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.

<https://cchealth.org/ipm/program.php>

**California School IPM:** Detailed information and requirements for adopting integrated pest management in schools and childcare centers and provides support for Healthy Schools Act compliance.

<https://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/schoolipm/>

**United States Environmental Protection Agency:** Integrated Pest Management tools and resources to Support IPM implementation.

<https://www.epa.gov/ipm/integrated-pest-management-tools-resources-support-ipm-implementation>

## **Certification**

"I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to ensure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted, is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."



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Maria Fierner, Public Works Director