

STAFF REPORT

DATE: December 2, 2008
TO: City Council
FROM: Martin Guerena, Integrated Pest Management Specialist
SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy

Recommendation

Approve Resolution Adopting the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy

Fiscal Impact

None at this point but implementation of some of these recommended practices may result in short term cost increases. It is expected that the long term costs will decrease as will the negative environmental impact. Signage to be placed at individual parks is estimated at \$300.00 a piece. Funding for park signage will be pursued through grants and other opportunities.

Council Goal(s)

Achieve long-term financial stability.
Conserve natural resources and protect the environment.

Background and Analysis

In the 1980's the City of Davis' pesticide use was similar to other cities and agricultural operations. Much of the maintenance of park, greenbelts, landscaping, bike paths, streetscapes and open space consisted of scheduled applications of fertilizers and pesticides. The pesticides used were a mixture of Category I (Danger), II (Warning) and III (Caution) compounds.

In 1989 the city established an IPM program where new methods of managing public landscapes were imposed, these included:

- First IPM Policy developed in 1991 by the Parks and Community Services department.
- First IPM specialist hired by the City of Davis.
- Issuing written pesticide recommendations.
- Consolidate and centralize pesticide storage in upgraded facilities.
- Cooperating with UCD in experimenting and utilizing beneficial insects and other practices.
- Minimize toxic pesticide use.
- Increased staff training and education on IPM.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy

Seven years later in 1996, the city council approved the creation of an IPM task force which was made up of UCD experts including IPM specialist, entomologist, weed scientist and plant pathologist as well as representatives of the US Forest Service and private landscapers. The task force primary goals were to:

- Reduce the pollution load of pesticides within the City of Davis
- Increase awareness and use of IPM by citizens via education & outreach
- Provide recommendations that will assist in improving the IPM program
- Reduce the use of pesticides within the city, by businesses and retail operations via technical assistance and education programs

The IPM task force report was completed in 1998 with the following conclusions:

- Identify the conditions causing pest problems.
- Devise ways to change conditions so as to discourage reoccurrence of pests.
- Select least hazardous combination of strategies to control the pests.
- Conduct on going training and IPM advisory assistance.

In 1998 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the City of Davis a PESP (Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program) Grant Award for IPM Education. The IPM demonstration signs and “garden friendly” posting throughout the parks and greenbelts are remnants of that funding.

The IPM program came under review in 2000 by the Natural Resources Commission with the following recommendations:

- Continue reducing category II applications.
- Continue posting for pesticide applications.
- Continue the native grasses area conservation.
- Study the IPM coordinator option.
- Continue training efforts with citizens and staff.

2000 – 2007 Environmental resource supervisor (Open Space), wildlife resource specialist (Public Works) and the environmental compliance supervisor (Public Works) over saw and reported on the IPM program.

2001 Local interest group requested the County Ag. Commissioner to investigate herbicide use and reporting within the city. The investigation revealed only minor deficiencies with recordkeeping due to the size of the departments. Each department would maintain records and coordinate IPM activities.

2005 Public Works develops an IPM plan, which includes:

- Less reliance on chemical controls.
- Maintenance of positive relations between the city’s departments, regulatory agencies, and concerned public entities.
- Balancing weed controls within departmental economic constraints.

2007 IPM specialist hired.

2008 Updated IPM Policy developed.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy

The IPM policy presented here tonight is a culmination of years of input from various citizens, citizen commissions, consultants, city council actions and staff recommendations to the City of Davis. It is a consistent policy for all departments and their contractors that manage pest for the City of Davis.

This policy was modeled after San Francisco's IPM policy that was developed in 1996. In addition it includes a pest control strategy known as the Pesticide Hazard and Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone System. The PHAER Zone System seeks ways to measure progress towards risk reduction goals, it allows grounds managers needed flexibility in their management options, and it informs the community about the general level of pesticide hazard that could be present on a site-by-site basis. The PHAER Zone System establishes management zones on each site based upon the unique risk reduction goals of individual jurisdictions. These zones are designated as Green, Yellow, and Special Circumstance Zones, with Green Zones providing the lowest potential for pesticide hazard and exposure. Each Zone has a corresponding pesticide list determined by existing toxicological data.

This policy provides consistency among all city departments, and was reviewed by Natural Resources Commission on September 22, 2008, the Open Space Commission on October 6, 2008 and the Recreation and Parks Commission on October 16, 2008.

Implementation is occurring throughout the city's parks and greenbelts with trials being conducted on alternative methods of control such as solarization and "green" pesticides incorporated with known effective practices like irrigation management and mulching.

PHAER zone implementation for individual parks will proceed as follows:

1. Winter 2009: Mace Ranch Park and Central Park.
2. Spring of 2009: Arroyo Park, Walnut Park and Community Park.
3. Summer 2009: Pioneer Park, Slide Hill Park, Chestnut Park, Sandy Motley Park.
4. Fall 2009: Westwood Park, Barovetto Park, North Star Park and Sycamore Park.
5. Winter 2010: Covell Park, La Playa Park, Oak Grove Park, Oxford Circle Park, Putah Creek Park.
6. Spring 2010: Redwood Park, Robert Arneson Park, West Manor Park, Willowcreek Park.
7. 2011 through 2014: Remaining parks, ball fields and greenbelts.

Attachments:

1. Resolution
2. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy
 - (1) PHAER Zones (not included with this staff report due to size of document)
 - (2) Chemical List
 - (3) Pesticide Use Policy