

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Pesticide Use Reduction

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Purpose

To reduce the use of chemical pest control methods by the County of San Diego while still ensuring effective pest management.

Background

In 1992, the Board of Supervisors directed the Pesticide Task Force, an advisory committee, to assist in the development of a pesticide reduction policy. The policy is based on the Pesticide Task Force Report, which outlines recommendations for chemical and non-chemical pest control in county-owned and operated facilities. Environmental and health concerns necessitate the need for the County to limit the use of chemicals when other methods of pest control exist.

Policy

It shall be the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

1. The Board of Supervisors supports Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which involves the use of non-chemical pest control methods and the careful use of chemical methods when non-chemical methods have been considered and evaluated.
2. The County's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program will include the following components:
 - a. Education of County staff and public utilizing County facilities about pest problems and the IPM program.
 - b. Identification of pests and the least toxic methods that can be used to control them.
 - c. Review and consideration of all available non-chemical options for acceptability and feasibility before using a chemical pesticide.
 - d. Identification and evaluation of conditions that encourage pest problems.
 - e. Careful and efficient inspection and monitoring of pest problems by designated personnel knowledgeable of IPM methods.
 - f. The maintenance of records by all County Departments on IPM methods considered and used to prevent and control pests.

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3. All information about the IPM program will be available to both employees and the public.
4. The IPM Committee's primary function shall be advising and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to sound, environmentally safe pest management practices. This group shall also make recommendations to those departments using pesticides. The committee shall be composed of:
 - a. Environmental group representative
 - b. Toxicologist with experience in pesticide use and IPM strategies
 - c. Farm Bureau representative
 - d. Environmental attorney
 - e. Entomologist with knowledge of IPM strategies
 - f. Representative of the general public
 - g. An organic grower
 - h. A physician having expertise in pesticide-related illnesses
 - i. A representative of the pest control industry
 - j. IPM Coordinator for departments using pesticides.

In addition, each department currently utilizing chemical pest control will designate an IPM Coordinator to provide overall departmental program management, and to assist the IPM Committee.

5. All County departments utilizing chemical control of pests will be affected by this policy. The Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures (AWM) shall be the principal coordinating department regarding guidance, training and education information. Each department will, in cooperation with the IPM Committee, conduct an annual evaluation of its IPM program and determine if improvements should be made.
6. The Committee shall meet annually to review the County's IPM program and the effectiveness of this policy. The Committee will also be responsible for implementing the recommendations contained in the Pesticide Task Force Report.
7. Structural chemical pest control will not be made available by Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures to those departments who do not maintain an IPM Coordinator to provide overall department program management. The Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures will not be responsible for performing chemical pest control when non-chemical methods have not been implemented.

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The Department of Environmental Health, Community Health Division, will continue its IPM program to control disease-carrying organisms on County properties.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-08.

Board Action

7-20-93 (43)

8-7-2002 (5)

1. Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures
2. Department of Environmental Health