



## **Proposed Final Version**

### **San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program Model Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Policy**

#### **GOAL**

The Town of Portola Valley seeks to protect the health and safety of its employees and the general public, the environment and water quality, as well as to provide sustainable solutions for pest control through the reduced use of pesticides on property including buildings owned or managed by the City/County by applying Integrated Pesticide Management principles and techniques. The municipal regional stormwater permit requires that the Town of Portola Valley minimize reliance on pesticides that threaten water quality.

#### **REQUIRED USE OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

Employees implementing pest management controls will use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques that emphasize non-pesticide alternatives. Pesticides will only be used after careful consideration of non-chemical alternatives and then the least toxic chemicals that are effective shall be used. Pest control contractors hired by the Town of Portola Valley are required to implement IPM to control pests. This will be achieved by hiring only IPM-certified pest control contractors or by including contract specifications requiring contractors to implement IPM methods.

The Town of Portola Valley will establish written standard operating procedures for pesticide use to ensure implementation of this IPM policy and to require municipal employees and pest control contractors to comply with the standard operating procedures.

The Town of Portola Valley will track employee and contractor pesticide use and prepare an annual report summarizing pesticide use and evaluating pest control activities performed consistent with the municipal regional stormwater permit's requirements.

The Town of Portola Valley will review its purchasing procedures, contracts or service agreements with pest control contractors and employee training practices to determine what changes, if any, need to be made to support the implementation of this IPM Policy.

The Town of Portola Valley will perform educational outreach and/or support Countywide or regional efforts to educate residential and commercial pesticide users on a) goals and techniques of IPM, and b) pesticide related water quality issues consistent with the municipal regional stormwater permit's requirements.

The IPM-based hierarchical decision making process that will be used to control pests will include the following:

1. Based on field observations evaluate locations and sites where pest problems commonly occur to determine pest population, size, occurrence, and natural enemy population, if

- present. Identify conditions that contribute to the development of pest populations, and decisions and practices that could be employed to manage pest populations
2. Design, construct, and maintain landscapes and buildings to reduce and eliminate pest habitats;
  3. Modify management practices including watering, mulching, waste management, and food storage to discourage the development of pest population;
  4. Modify pest ecosystems to reduce food, water sources, and harborage;
  5. Prioritize the use of physical controls such as mowing weeds, using traps, and installing barriers;
  6. Use biological controls to introduce or enhance a pests' natural enemies;
  7. When pest populations reach treatment thresholds (based on how much biological, aesthetic, economic or other damage is tolerable) non-pesticide management activities will be evaluated before considering the use of pesticides;
  8. When pesticides are necessary, select reduced risk pesticides and use the minimum amounts needed to be effective;
  9. 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; and
  10. Whenever possible, use pesticide application methods, such as containerized baits, that minimize opportunities for mobilization of the pesticide in stormwater runoff.

Departments performing pest management activities will identify an IPM coordinator who is responsible for assisting staff with implementation of this IPM policy.

## BACKGROUND

Pesticides are defined as: any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, rodents and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), bacteria or fungi. The term pesticide applies to herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, molluscicides and other substances used to control pests.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 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 organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

IPM techniques could include biological controls (e.g., ladybugs and other natural enemies or predators); physical or mechanical controls (e.g., hand labor or mowing, caulking entry points to buildings); cultural controls (e.g., mulching, alternative plant type selection, and enhanced cleaning and containment of food sources in buildings); and reduced risk chemical controls (e.g., soaps or oils).

Town of Portola Valley owned or managed property/facility includes but is not limited to parks and open space, golf courses, roadsides, landscaped medians, flood control channels and other outdoor areas, as well as municipal buildings and structures.