

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA – INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT
TECHNICAL ADVISORY GROUP MEETING – MINUTES

Reference Number: IPM-TAG 69-3-14-19
Date: **Thursday March 14, 2019**
Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Venue: **County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, East Wing 11th Floor, Conference Room 1-2**

A. Convene Meeting and Announcements **10:30AM – 10:45AM**

Printed agenda materials were distributed
No announcements were made

B. Section Sec. B28-5. - Pesticide use. (b) Specific exemptions: Pesticide Use Exemption (2019) – Department of Roads and Airports **10:45AM – 11:45AM**

Naresh Duggal -

Vegetation control for fire risk reduction and escape route – Roads department is requesting a pre-emergent herbicide

The chemical that Roads (Dimension) is requesting has a human health concern (cancer) due to crystalline silica, Inert, inorganic compound will not decompose and will remain a hazard. Known human carcinogen.

IPM recognizes the need of the Roads Dept. to have an effective herbicide, but the herbicide that IPM department recommends as an alternative (Imazamox) does not have same health concerns.

Roads does not have an experience using Imazamox, it is a pre-emerge and post-emerge chemical

IPM has researched effectiveness and toxicity of Imazamox and believes it will be effective for right-of-way vegetation management

IPM is working on trials to test efficacy of Imazamox on county roads. Work with UCCE and trial will take one year starting in October

IPM and Roads toured backcountry roads with manufacturer of Imazamox herbicide and manufacturer indicated that Imazamox herbicide should work

Sterilized soil will lead to erosion. Having localized vegetation will reduce erosion and monoculture

A fine may be possible for an agency that did not remove vegetation*

Fire department is not asking for any specific chemical

There must be qualified and quantified fire risk

Short term exposure can be minimized during application, but later workers /people can be exposed after chemical dries

Suggested that Roads use Imazamox during the next few months to see how effective it is and not use Dimension

An ecologically balanced approach should be taken to reduce potential for erosion

There are some roads hillsides are up to almost 90-degree angles. They are not meant to be a zero-vegetation area.

Ron Jackson -

Fire department came to Roads and indicated that roads play a large role in fire suppression

Mowing is main vegetation control method but is limited by fire danger (sparks). 2 mowers per yard that are run year-round.

Pre-emerge chemical is needed to stop weeds from coming up

Roads is excited to have Imazamox as a approved chemical, but no other similar agencies are using it

They are worried about current control for this year.

SCVWD and CalTrans are using Dimension and if Imazamox works in the trial, then they will switch and never use Dimension again.

CalFire will investigate fires and can fine for not managing properly or not following protocols

IPM and Roads are in disagreement and will send Dimension agreement to CEO to approve/disapprove

Tony Bowden is putting a fire control plan together, he indicates that roads is an element of the fire suppression plan that they are developing, Roads has told them that the mowing program is not able to keep up.

Roads needs a proven program to suppress fire and Dimension is the only chemical that has ben proven to work. NO other counterparts have used Imazamox

Roads will not take the risk of not using a proven chemical

Roads will use Imazamox for post-emergent, but will not use for Pre-emerging (October) until trials on 3 of 30 roads in trial, if Imazamox is successful, then County will switch to it

Roads has been very cooperative with the IPM ordinance, and they would like to have a guaranteed product that will work for one season to reduce fire risk

Ron Neal -

Asking for exemption for only a small number of roads (30 roads, 300 acres) 25% of these road types, 100 miles of the 600 miles of roads

The fire chief asked Roads to do expanded mountain road vegetation management

Pre-merge will be used in conjunction with mowing

C. Public Comment

11:45AM – 12:00PM

Can Roads use Imazamox this year instead of Dimension?

Other districts are using Dimension, but they do not have and IPM ordinance.

Crystalline Silica is a lung carcinogen, chemicals kill the soil biology, native oaks should be planted, soil is important thing to have and we should not kill it.

What is the regulatory agency that is asking for more fire suppression on Roads?

Roads is in a difficult position in trying to please all sides of the subject. Workers dying from silica vs. fire fighters dying in fires.

What are the local agencies using Imazamox?

What does the fire chief say about the situation?

These have been some of the worst fire years recorded.

What are the next steps?

Are road buffers subject to erosion?

Gasoline is toxic and there are carcinogens in wildfire smoke and engine exhaust

Air quality is another agency that departments must be in compliance with.

D. Adjourn

12:00 PM