

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

Reference #: IPM-TAG 72-11-26-19
Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2019
Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Venue: 70 West Hedding St, East Wing 11th Floor, Conference Room 1-2

A. Convene Meeting and Announcements **10:00AM – 10:10AM**

1. Announcements, updates, and distribution of background information and letters from the public.

Mike Will (MW) – Introduced himself as new Parks Maintenance Manager. He will be acting as Department IPM Coordinator until a permanent person is appointed.

Will Howsmon (WH) - Introduced himself as Region 2 Parks Supervisor. He will be coordinating the Grant dam vegetation management project.

Charlene Lilly (CL) - Introduced herself as member of PASC and former County worker.

Distributed “The IPM Practitioner”

Distributed Marion Moses Handouts – “Safer Pesticide Alternatives” and “Tips for Avoiding Hotel Bedbugs”

B. Pesticide Use Exemptions: Seasonal and One-Time **10:10AM – 10:50AM**

1. Grant Park Dam Vegetation Control Project

MW - In March 2019 a state inspector indicated that an earthen dam at Grant Park needs woody vegetation to be removed. Woody vegetation can weaken the dam and prevent inspections. Mechanical means in this case are not viable due to potential damage to dam infrastructure.

The goal is to use herbicides once to remove existing plants, then in the future remove the plants before they become woody.

There is a staffing shortage at Parks, but classification review and development of a database system is expected to help in staffing.

Cut-stump treatments will be used to avoid drift and minimize total application.

The dam vegetation area is around an acre and a half.

WH - Dam vegetation was cut a few months before the dam inspection, but they continued to sprout and grow back after cutting due to the roots remaining viable.

MW - Mechanically pulling out the roots will cause damage to the dam.

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Imox will be the herbicide used
Coyote brush and cattails are the plants that need to be controlled.

WH - The brush will be cut and treated on the same day to maximize effectiveness.

IPM Staff - If Parks recognizes the need for a repeat treatment then that will be granted, as it is possible that one treatment will not achieve the total control necessary to preserve the dam.

2. Seasonal Right-of-Way Roads Vegetation Control Projects

IPM -Staff IPM has visited County roads sites to evaluate conditions and needs for chemical use. High fire danger roads need vegetation clearance for safety reasons, especially in backcountry roads that have steep hills that are not able to be mowed.

Glyphosate is no longer available for County departments to use. Imox and Promenade will be used on the roads that need this type of clearance. These chemicals can provide post and pre-emergent control.

Fire prone roads area is estimated to be 150 acres. Expressway areas is estimated at 150 acres.

Native vegetation for weed control on expressways is being explored as an alternative. One issue would be the lack of available irrigation for native grass establishment.

Dittrichia has become a very problematic weed issue. Hand pulling is not possible due to dermatitis caused by oils. Animals do not prefer to graze on it. It spreads very easy and drops seeds before it dies. Minor infestations began being spotted in Santa Clara County in 2009. Dittrichia establishes in disturbed lands.

Collective control between jurisdictions in the correct season would be the best way to get effective control of Dittrichia. Working together could provide control in 3 to 5 years.

Marion Blair (MB) - Valley Water maintained roads are seeing Dittrichia and it is suspected to be spread by tires.

Due to toxicity, goats will not eat Dittrichia, but will eat anything else.

Kathryn Matthewson – Shade trees on expressways can help to reduce weeds. The North County does a better job of having shade trees on expressways.

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IPM Staff - Shade trees and urban forestry requires funding. The County does not currently have enough funding to plant, establish, and maintain trees. The County is working to see if funding can be found for tree planting.

KM – Large foundations could pay for tree planting. Trees are not being planted correctly, as the hardpan soil needs to be bored through and compost added to the allow root establishment.

IPM Staff - Using compost to help establish during tree planting was included in the ecology-based county tree guide released in April 2019.

MB – Phytophthora must be considered as a possible threat when using organic compost.

KM – Noticed a lot of weed on expressways and questions the timing of the manual weeding.

IPM Staff - This may be due to staffing shortages in the Roads Department.

KM – Homeless could be used to work on weed abatement.

IPM Staff - There are existing programs that the County can, and does, use for weed management projects: the San Jose Conservation Corps and the Weekend Work Program. It would be difficult to use other types of labor due to liability, insurance and other issues. But the County is always looking into it.

KM – Healthy soil biology can help control weeds.

MW – Parks tries to plant trees as much as they can, and they support tree planting.

C. Public Comment

10:50AM – 11:10AM

Anna Griffin – What kind for breathing protection is used for Roads workers during asphalt work?

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IPM Staff – The IPM program is not experts on occupational safety in this regard.

KM – Her Himalayan Cedar tree spreads needles around her garden and she does not have insect or weed issues. There is no botanical garden to educate County residents. England provides housing for maintenance workers. Prefabricated houses are a good way to establish housing.

D. Adjourn

11:10 AM

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