

**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.
3. All information about the IPM program will be available to both employees and the public.

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4. Each department currently utilizing chemical pest control will designate an IPM Coordinator to provide overall departmental program management.
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 conduct an annual evaluation of its IPM program and determine if improvements should be made.
6. 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.

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

**Sunset Date**

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by 12-31-22.

**Board Action**

7-20-1993 (43)

8-7-2002 (5)

6-25-2008 (12)

12-16-2015 (8)

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