

Minutes
Contra Costa Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
September 19, 2019

Members Present: Carlos Agurto, Pestec; Susan Captain, Public Member at Large; David Hallinan, Agriculture Department; Susan Heckly, County Fish and Wildlife Committee; Michael Kent, Health Services; Andrew Sutherland, Public Member at Large; Teri Rie, acting County Clean Water seat

(7 members present, 5 voting members)

Members Absent: Jim Donnelly, Public Member At Large (Chair), Jerry Casey, Public Works Facilities; Kimberly Hazard, County Sustainability Commission Program; Dennis Shusterman, Public Member Alternate

Staff Present: Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's Office; Jose Arriaga, Agriculture Department; Wade Finlinson, IPM Coordinator

Members of the Public: Dave Shoemaker (PASE), Shirley Shelangoski (PASE), Karen Perkins (PASE), KO (Bahr Bee Ranch)

Carlos Agurto acted as Chair

1. Introductions:

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

Shirley Shelangoski welcomed the new IPM Coordinator

3. Announcements

- Wade Finlinson announced the current recruitment for 3 public seats on the IPM Advisory Commission and encouraged the committee members whose terms are expiring to reapply and invited all in attendance to circulate the announcement as they deem appropriate.
- Wade Finlinson said that the Sustainability Commission recently appointed Kimberly Hazard to be their representative on this committee. Kimberly works for the California Childcare Health Program at the UCSF School of Nursing – Dept. of Family Health Care Nursing and is a graduate student at UC Berkeley. Kim has experience developing IPM programs and practices for childcare facilities and will be a welcome member of this body. A previous commitment conflicted with her attendance at today's meeting and she has been excused but has asked us to circulate a recruitment flyer for a Healthy Children and Environments Study that she is involved with. Contra Costa County is one of four counties in California where the study will be conducted.
- Michael Kent announced that the Sustainability Commission is working on recommendations for the update of the Contra Costa County Climate Action Plan and encouraged anyone interested to participate in upcoming workshops.
- Jill ray mentioned that the first of three community meetings regarding the update to the Climate Action Plan would be held that night in Walnut Creek.
- Andrew Sutherland announced that the UC Cooperative Extension recently hired a new specialty crop farm advisor named Dr. Kamyar Aram and indicated that he would be invited to a future meeting.

4. Introduce the newly hired IPM Coordinator, Wade Finlinson

Wade Finlinson spoke about his previous professional IPM experience in the public sector and referenced his academic credentials. He recognizes the complexity involved with assessing risks associated with pest populations and efforts to control those populations. He expressed a desire to positively engage with

collaborators of disparate viewpoints in a manner that productively moves better management practices forward.

5. Approve minutes from July 18, 2019

A motion was made and seconded (MK/SH) to approve the minutes as written.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Heckly, Kent, Rie, Sutherland

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Donnelly, Hazard, Shusterman

6. Approve outline for the IPM Annual Report

Wade Finlinson indicated that the proposed format and process would be similar to that of recent years and solicited committee input.

Andrew Sutherland inquired about moving toward a more dynamic format that helps highlight Committee recommendations and potentially reduces the size of the of the document. Succinct summaries of historic and background information that refer readers to the website or other outlets may be helpful in bringing more focus on the recommendations.

Wade Finlinson expressed willingness to explore such possibilities with the Committee in the future, but the preference for this years' report is to be consistent with the format from previous years. Since Tanya Drlik has agreed to work with the IPM program on a part time basis through the end of the calendar year, the existing format would be more appropriate, particularly since the year is nearly 3/4 complete. He also said that the Committee should allocate some time during the upcoming work planning sessions for 2020 to specifically discuss how to improve the efficacy of the annual report and related deliverables.

Jill Ray said that Public Works is scheduled to address last years recommendations at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee (TWIC) on November 14th. She also suggested that it may be advantageous for members of the IPM committee to assist in presenting recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors instead of it merely being on their consent calendar after it is presented to TWIC each year.

A motion was made and seconded (SH/AS) to approve the outline as proposed.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Heckly, Kent, Rie, Sutherland

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Donnelly, Hazard, Shusterman

7a. Hear report from the Decision-Making subcommittee and approve subcommittee final report for 2019

Andrew Sutherland summarized the *Draft Report of the Decision-Making Subcommittee to the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee*. Draft and final versions are attached.

Michael Kent noted that this marks the first time that he recalls the Committee making funding recommendations. He asked if these recommendations are general and if it would be worthwhile having specific recommendations for the Board of Supervisors to direct staff from various departments to prioritize potential pilot projects. He also said that the language in the last recommendation on the document where it reads that "the County establish mechanisms" for outside funding should be reworded since most departments already have those mechanisms in place.

Andrew Sutherland said that he understood that part of the new IPM coordinator's position would include working with the Agriculture and Public Works Departments to procure and implement Committee

recommendations. He also said he would refine the wording as discussed in time for the next meeting of the Decision-Making Subcommittee.

A motion was made and seconded (AS/SH) to approve the report with the proposed changes.

The motion carried:

AYES: Captain, Heckly, Kent, Rie, Sutherland

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: Donnelly, Hazard, Shusterman

Public Speakers: Karen Perkins, KO

Citizen comments indicated general support for the changes to the ground squirrel decision document. An inquiry was made about what research may be available that would help encourage large birds to stick around to eat ground squirrels and that it's important to create public awareness to not kill these birds.

7b. Hear reports from the Agriculture and Public Works Departments

David Hallinan reported from the Agriculture department. He said that four peach fruit flies were recently found in Brentwood and Oakley. After the first one was found, the department increased the number of traps per square mile by a factor of 10 which helped them locate the other three. Early detection helped prevent a problem that could have been much worse.

Teri Rie reported from the Public Works Department-Flood Control and Roadsides Maintenance Division. She said that they are seriously looking into the 2018 Committee recommendations and will be giving a report to TWIC in November. They are currently not using any herbicides on creek sides while they are looking into contracting a Pest Control Advisor.

Goats R Us is working in some areas required by vegetation control mandates but the department is not able to provide service to many locations throughout the County during their temporary discontinuation of chemical applications. Anything that is not a fire hazard, the Department is letting go for now. She said costs are going up due to the price of goats. *Dittrichia* growing in the roadway is one example of what is not being addressed with goats or mechanical methods.

Carlos Agurto from Pestec reported for Public Works-Facilities Division. He said ant calls have increased and they are working with their distributors to find better baits. He also said they continue to deal with the Three-lined cockroach and are working to explore better control methods.

Michael Kent asked if we are seeing more poor practices in terms of keeping workplaces clean. Carlos Agurto said that workplace is a constant issue but has not observed a noticeable increase in dirtier work sites and he thinks the increased ant populations are not attributed to that.

Public Speakers: Shirley Shelangoski and Karen Perkins

Citizens asked if Public Works is using volunteer or inmate crews and said we should be looking broader than Goats R Us for grazing services.

Teri Rie said that several creek-related volunteer crews are active, and some arrangements are in place for private herders to graze on County property. Jill Ray clarified that no work-alternative crews are being used due to insufficient staffing levels needed to provide supervision of these crews by the Office of the Sheriff.

8. Hear report from the IPM Coordinator on a preliminary review of glyphosate use in County operations
Wade Finlinson presented slides depicting the use of glyphosate by County departments and asked the Committee for feedback on potential next steps. See attached.

Andrew Sutherland said that this would be a good topic for the Decision-Making Subcommittee to explore at their next meeting. Wade Finlinson said he would add the item to the agenda for the September 26th meeting.

Public Speakers: KO and Shirley Shelangoski

Citizens expressed concern that so much glyphosate was used at the West County Detention Facility particularly considering ICE-detained families being exposed to it. They were glad to see the overall reduction and encouraged Contra Costa County to speak with other jurisdictions such as East Bay Regional Parks who recently voted to phase out the use of glyphosate in developed parkland.

Jill Ray clarified that the Office of the Sheriff no longer has a contract with ICE and that this facility is only for adults and no children were detained.

9. Plan agenda for next meeting

- Report back from TWIC meeting PW
- Work plan for 2020
- Discuss which subcommittees to form for 2020; will be formed in January full Committee meeting
- Presentations/Speakers for 2020
- Report from Agriculture and Public Works Departments and IPM Coordinator
- Review Final Annual Report.

Public Speakers: Shirley Shelangoski indicated that PASE would be happy to propose a list of potential speakers for the consideration of the Committee.

Next Meetings: November 21, 2019 and January 16, 2020

Outline for 2019 IPM Annual Report

- I. Executive Summary
- II. History of the IPM Advisory Committee
- III. Background on the IPM Advisory Committee
- IV. IPM Advisory Committee Priorities for 2019
- V. Accomplishments of the IPM Advisory Committee and the IPM Coordinator
- VI. Department IPM Program Highlights and Challenges
- VII. Pesticide Use by County Operations
- VIII. Department IPM Priorities

Attachments:

- Decision Documents
- Subcommittee Reports
- Pesticide Use Spreadsheet

DRAFT Report of the Decision-Making Subcommittee to the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee.

Prepared by Andrew M. Sutherland, Subcommittee Chair, and Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

August 2019

Members

Susan Captain
Jim Donnelly
Gretchen Logue – vice chair
Andrew Sutherland - chair
Larry Yost

The Decision-Making Subcommittee, as a service to the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee and the residents of the County, works to document situation-specific pest management decision-making processes and to revise existing County decision documents. The subcommittee is charged with making recommendations that may improve the County's pest management processes while preventing or minimizing associated negative impacts.

Since our last report (September 2018), the Subcommittee has met eight times: November 6, 2018 and January 8, February 21, March 11, April 25, May 30, July 11, and August 15, 2019. Elections were held on February 21, with Andrew Sutherland elected as Chair and Gretchen Logue elected as Vice-Chair, both to serve until December 2019. For this report, recent activities have been grouped into three broad themes below: ground squirrel management by the Department of Agriculture, (generalized) vegetation management programs, and methods of communication and extension for the Subcommittee's recommendations.

Ground squirrel control by the Department of Agriculture

The subcommittee continued review of this pest situation and the associated decision document *Ground Squirrel Management for Critical Infrastructure*. This program is responsible for the only County use of anticoagulant rodenticides. In FY 2018-19, 0.96 lb of the active ingredient diphacinone was applied to control ground squirrels. The nontarget issues surrounding use of anticoagulants continue to be important to the County and its residents. The review process began on April 5, 2018 and continued formally until the decision document was approved (as revised) on March 11, 2019; the document is attached here. Key findings are as follows:

- The Agriculture Department manages ground squirrels as a service for the Public Works Department and, periodically, for other County entities through on-call services and vendor agreements. The decision document *Ground Squirrel Management for Critical Infrastructure* applies to services provided to Public Works. A related document, tentatively entitled *Ground Squirrel Management: On-Call Service*, remains to be created and reviewed by the IPM Coordinator and this Subcommittee.
- Fumigation (via gas cartridges, carbon monoxide, or carbon dioxide) is considered a very important alternative to anticoagulant rodenticide applications. The Subcommittee learned about various fumigation devices and products and interviewed several manufacturers and users. The Subcommittee worked with the IPM Advisory Committee to arrange two research presentations on carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide fumigation. Fumigation is most effective in spring when soil is moist. Agriculture Department staff are committed to weed management programs during spring. This labor shortage presents a major limitation to the adoption and widespread use of these alternatives by the Agriculture Department. Because of this limitation, the County has traditionally used diphacinone-treated grain bait to manage ground squirrels around critical infrastructure. Baiting is only effective from June through October when grasses are dry.
- Trapping, burrow destruction, burrow grouting, and conservation biological control via raptor perch programs were all considered as alternative ground squirrel management tactics. Several municipal agencies and other users were interviewed about these tactics. None of these appear to provide stand-alone control, but all should be considered as components of a robust integrated program for ground squirrel management in the County.
- The subcommittee decided to develop a decision tree that will be associated with *Ground Squirrel Management for Critical Infrastructure*. Work on this decision tree has not yet begun.
- Additional funding for the ground squirrel program will be needed to explore and implement alternatives.

Weed management programs

The Subcommittee continued some discussion surrounding vegetation management as conducted by the Department of Public Works along County rights-of-way. These programs have come under new public scrutiny due to recent litigation and public awareness of the broad-spectrum post-emergent herbicide glyphosate as a potential carcinogen. The Subcommittee reviewed these programs in detail during 2017-2018, culminating in approval of two revised decision documents: *Weed Management along Roadsides* and *Weed Management along Flood Control Channels*. Both programs have been significantly impacted by staffing challenges within Public Works; it was reported that no pesticide use has occurred within these programs since October 2018. The Subcommittee met with Public Works staff members several times during this review period to discuss these programs. Key findings and recommendations are as follows:

- Access roads associated with flood control channels are an integral part of the right-of-way. Therefore, pesticide use reported on flood control channels includes access roads, and the associated decision documents attempt to capture decision-making processes and management tactics chosen along those roads. Several questions about pesticide use along access roads have been posed by the community.
- The Subcommittee will continue to engage the Public Works Department in discussion about vegetation management on rights-of-way, hoping to advise and clarify based on the two documents recently revised.

Communication and Extension of the Subcommittee's Recommendations

The Subcommittee conducted several discussions about how best to communicate our recommendations to County decision makers. Our recommendations are captured within decision documents we review and in our annual reports, but we wonder if these are received and seriously considered by Department heads, the Board of Supervisors, and other decision makers. We outlined a process by which members of the Subcommittee may report directly to the Board via the Transportation, Water, and Infrastructure Committee. Several Subcommittee members expressed interest, and we may follow the process outlined in the future. During this review term, the sitting IPM Coordinator retired. The subcommittee will work with the incoming IPM Coordinator to identify processes and pathways by which we might extend our recommendations more broadly and impactfully.

Subcommittee Recommendations

The Decision-Making subcommittee recommends the following:

- The County allocate additional funding or additional staff resources to the Agriculture Department to support ground squirrel management during spring, when fumigants such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide will be most effective. As a reminder, Department staff are all engaged in weed management programs in spring and unable to utilize these important alternatives to anticoagulants. This funding should be used, in part, to purchase fumigation equipment and to experiment with management protocols.
- The County continue to evaluate new and existing ground squirrel management tactics, considering efficacy, cost, impacts to the environment, and impacts to the community.
- The ground squirrel decision document be reviewed every three years, given ongoing development of new methods, changing environmental conditions, and potential changes to budgets.
- The County conduct detailed evaluations of the Public Works vegetation management programs along rights-of ways during the period October 2018 to present, given that no herbicides were applied. Have they met the control mandates set forth? Have they saved funds that may be used to evaluate and implement alternatives to herbicide applications along roadsides and flood control channels?
- The County continue to evaluate new and existing weed management tactics, considering efficacy, cost, impacts to the environment, and impacts to the community.
- The roadside and flood control weed management documents be reviewed every three years, given ongoing development of new methods, changing environmental conditions, and potential changes to budgets.
- All IPM decision documents, once approved, be made publicly available.
- The County Board of Supervisors allocate funding to the departmental IPM programs to enable pilot testing and evaluation of emerging and innovative pest management strategies and tactics **OR** the County establish mechanisms for extramural funding to support such research and implementation endeavors.

Report of the Decision-Making Subcommittee to the Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee.

Prepared by Andrew M. Sutherland, Subcommittee Chair, and Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator - August 2019

Members

Susan Captain, Jim Donnelly, Gretchen Logue (vice chair), Andrew Sutherland (chair), Larry Yost

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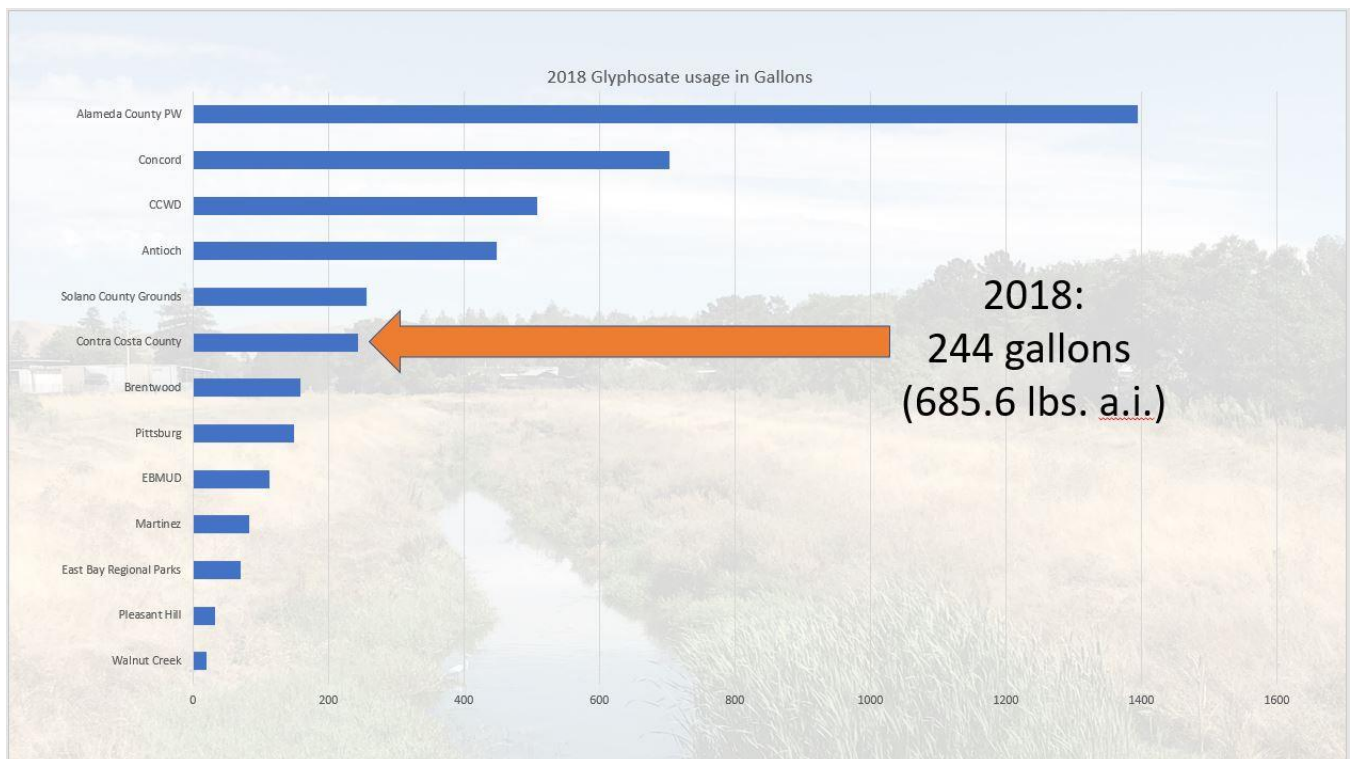
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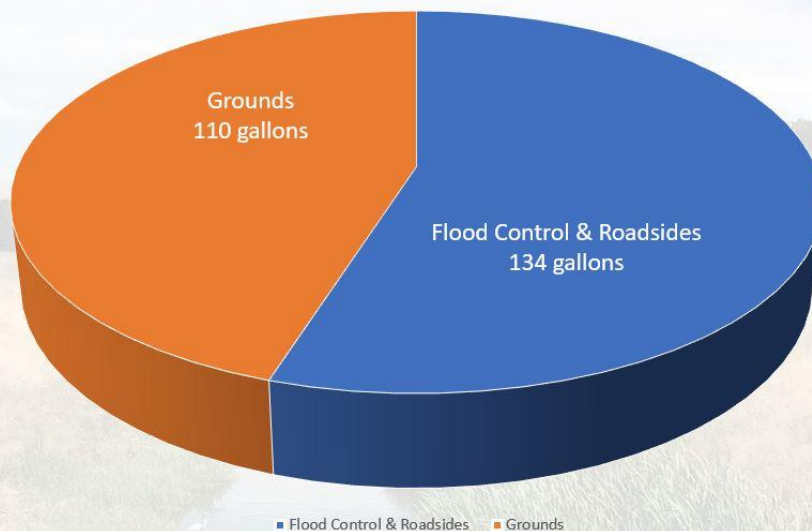
- The County allocate funding to the Agriculture Department to support ground squirrel management during spring, when fumigants such as carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide will be most effective. As a reminder, Department staff are all engaged in weed management programs in spring and unable to utilize these important alternatives to anticoagulants. This funding could be used to hire additional staff, purchase carbon monoxide fumigation equipment, hire a pest control contractor for springtime ground squirrel management, or to experiment with management protocols. The Subcommittee will work with the Department to determine the specific amounts that will required for these efforts and activities.
- The County allocate additional funding or establish alternative procedures whereby the Department of Public Works may procure a contractor to provide carbon monoxide fumigation services for ground squirrels along levees, irrigation canals, and flood-control channels during the spring. This would allow the Agriculture Department to continue focusing on their weed management programs during the spring.
- The County continue to evaluate new and existing ground squirrel management tactics, considering site requirements, efficacy, cost, impacts to the environment, and impacts to the community.
- The ground squirrel decision document be reviewed every three years, given ongoing development of new methods, changing environmental conditions, and potential changes to budgets.
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- The roadside and flood control weed management documents be reviewed every three years, given ongoing development of new methods, changing environmental conditions, and potential changes to budgets.
- All IPM decision documents, once approved, be made publicly available.
- The County direct departments to annually propose and prioritize potential research projects associated with emerging and innovative strategies and tactics that will improve the County's IPM program.
- The County encourage departments to seek outside funding sources for these IPM research projects.

Preliminary Review of Glyphosate Use in County Operations

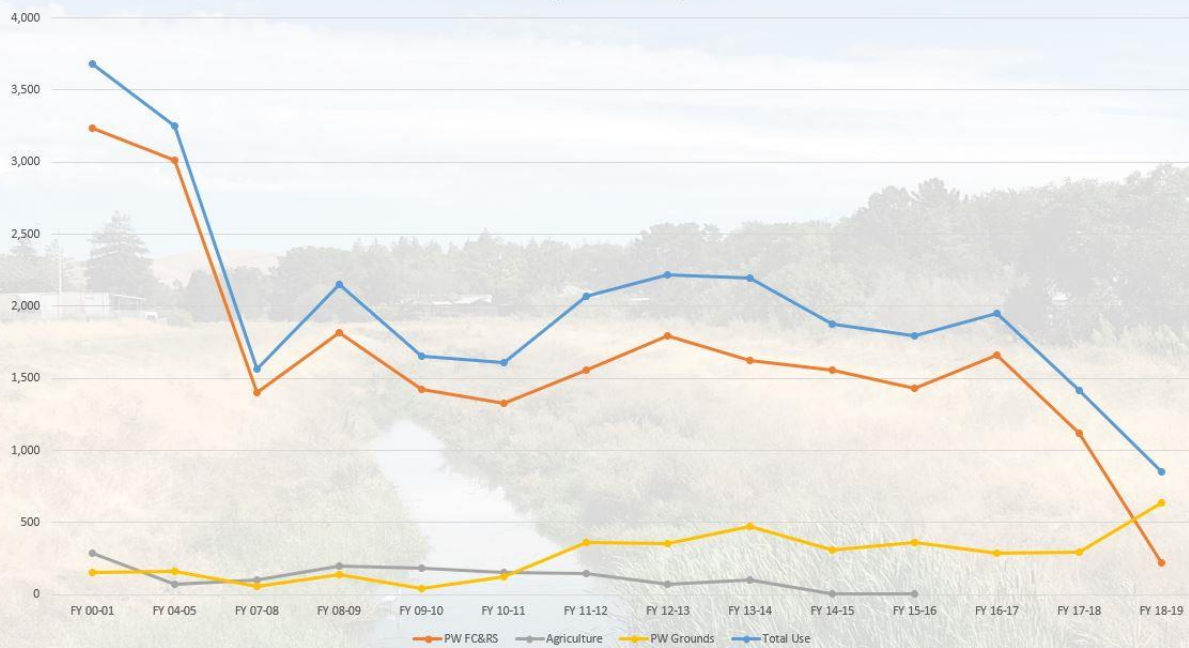
Contra Costa County Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee
September 19, 2019



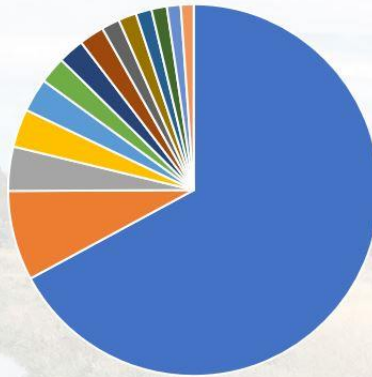
2018 Contra Costa County Glyphosate Usage



Pounds of Glyphosate Used by Fiscal Year



14 Highest Glyphosate Use Grounds Sites in 2018



- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| ■ WCDF Infra Red Perimeter | ■ Marsh Creek Spraying | ■ 202 Glacier Drive |
| ■ 2467 Waterbird Way | ■ LI-2 Z-42 Ca Skyline | ■ Zone 1/2/4 Kevin Dr/Port C |
| ■ New Bettencourt | ■ Zone 42 Driftwood Drive | ■ 2530 Arnold Drive |
| ■ Parker Ave Medians | ■ 2311 Loveridge Road | ■ Seabreeze New |
| ■ 2500 Alhambra Ave | ■ John Glenn | |