

Minutes
Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee
Posting Task Force
April 9, 2018

Members present: Carlos Agurto, Jim Donnelly, Gretchen Logue, Larry Yost

Members absent: None

Staff present: Joe Yee, Public Works; Jill Ray, Supervisor Andersen's office; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public present: Susan JunFish and Dave Shoemaker, Parents for a Safer Environment

1. Introductions

2. Public comment on items not on the agenda

There was none.

3. Discuss ideas for changes to the posting sign

The committee discussed the layout and information that should be on the posting sign. Some of the comments were as follows:

- The sign should be eye-catching, but not too busy.
- The sign should have a red graphic of a hand held up in the signal for "stop" as in the sign Gretchen brought to the meeting.
- The first paragraph on the current sign is a good advertisement for the County's IPM efforts and quantifies the County's accomplishments, but it could be shortened.
- "Keep Out!" should not be put on a sign that will be up for 7 days. The County is not going to be using a material that has a longer re-entry period than "when dry".
- The current sign says, "Notice of Pesticide Application". "Application" means different things to different people. "Pesticide Treatment" is better.
- The County doesn't usually direct the public to contact contractors. Carlos' name should be replaced with the Facilities Division number on the posting signs.
- The sign should not intentionally and unnecessarily alarm the public.
- Having "Caution" or "Please Use Caution" on the sign is advising people to exercise caution when going into the area. This would be directing people to do something that is too vague and that is not warranted.
- The sign could have a list of the EPA signal words, Caution, Warning, Danger, and one of them can be checked. This gives people an immediate idea of the hazard associated with the pesticide being used.
- If there is a QR code on the sign, where should it be and what should it link to?

Public comment

Susan JunFish asked that the sign have a red banner at the top and a hand on either side. "Time of Re-entry" is misleading and implies safety. The half life of the chemical would be better. If acute toxicity is noted, then chronic toxicity should be mentioned. Put the National Pesticide Information Center contact information on the sign.

The IPM Coordinator will modify the existing County sign with ideas from today's discussion and send out for the next meeting.

4. Discuss posting with Public Works Maintenance

Joe Yee mentioned the following points:

- Public Works includes the Facilities Division, Grounds Division, Roads and Flood Control.
- On roadsides, the County does not spray where there are pedestrians.

- The Iron Horse Corridor trail and 5ft on either side is maintained by the East Bay Regional Parks. The rest is maintained by Public Works, which mows the area but uses herbicides along the fence lines. The Iron Horse Corridor is always posted for fenceline treatments.
- The Department has talked about using permanent signs on the Iron Horse Corridor.
- Joe is working with Allison Knapp to determine where else there should be permanent signs in areas that are not used for recreation. Wording for the sign has not been decided yet. People would know when actual treatment was occurring by going to the website.
- The Department lets property owners set up “no spray zones”. The owners are then responsible for the weed management in those zones.

Public comment

Susan JunFish wants the treatments to be posted on a map on the website. A paper sign should be attached to the permanent sign on the day of posting and a notice put up on the website a week before treatment. She also said that community members are complaining that spraying has killed their vegetation. How many people have called the Department about spraying that killed their vegetation?

Joe Yee said that in all the years he has worked at the Department, there have been no complaints about killing vegetation on private property. Recently, however, the Department did have a problem with one employee who sprayed twice on private property.

5. Discuss posting with Agriculture Department Staff

Larry Yost mentioned the following points:

- The majority of the work the Department does is for East Bay Regional Parks, so Park policy is followed.
- For work for Mt. Diablo State Park, park staff post for the Department at the guard station.
- For work for the Town of Moraga, town staff post for the Department.
- The Department does not post unshouldered roadsides—people don’t walk there.
- The Department does do some treatments for ground squirrels on Marsh Creek Trail, and they do post there.

6. Plan next meeting agenda

The next meeting will be May 21, 2018, 1:00 to 2:30 pm

- Discuss the revised posting sign
- Discuss the posting policy