



**SAN MATEO COUNTY FLOOD AND SEA LEVEL RISE RESILIENCY DISTRICT**  
**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICY**  
**CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE**  
**SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD**  
**MUNICIPAL REGIONAL STORMWATER PERMIT**

**I. PURPOSE**

The San Mateo County Flood and Sea Level Rise Resiliency District (“District”) seeks to protect the health and safety of its employees and the general public, the environment and water quality, as well as provide sustainable solutions for pest control through the reduced use of pesticides on its property by applying Integrated Pest Management (“IPM”) principles and techniques. The Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit (“MRP”) of the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board requires that the District minimize reliance on pesticides that threaten water quality.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Pesticides are defined as: any substance or mixture of substances intended for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest. Pests can be insects, rodents and other animals, unwanted plants (weeds), bacteria, or fungi. The term pesticide applies to herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, rodenticides, molluscicides, and other substances used to control pests.

IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests and/or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

IPM techniques could include biological controls (e.g., ladybugs and other natural enemies or predators); physical or mechanical controls (e.g., hand labor or mowing or caulking entry points to buildings); cultural controls (e.g., mulching, alternative plant type selection, and enhanced cleaning and containment of food sources in buildings); and reduced risk chemical controls (e.g., soaps or oils).

District-owned or managed property/facility may include, but is not limited to: open spaces, roadsides, flood channels, other outdoor areas, and buildings and structures.

**III. REQUIRED USE OF INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT**

Employees implementing pest management controls will use IPM techniques that emphasize non-pesticide alternatives. Pesticides will only be used after careful consideration of non-chemical alternatives and then, after such consideration, only the least toxic chemicals that are effective shall be used. Pest control contractors hired by the District are required to implement IPM to control pests, which will be achieved by hiring only IPM-certified pest control contractors or by including in contractor agreements specifications requiring implementation of IPM methods.

The District will establish written standard operating procedures for pesticide use to ensure implementation of this IPM policy and to require all District employees and pest control contractors to comply with the standard operating procedures.

The District will track employee and contractor pesticide use and prepare an annual report summarizing pesticide use and evaluating pest control activities performed consistent with the MRP's requirements.

The District will review its purchasing/procurement procedures, service agreements with pest control contractors, and employee training materials and practices to determine what changes, if any, need to be made to support the implementation of this IPM policy.

The District will perform educational outreach and/or support countywide or regional efforts to educate residential and commercial pesticide users on a) goals and techniques of IPM, and b) pesticide-related water quality issues consistent with the MRP's requirements.

The IPM-based hierarchical decision-making process used to control pests will include the following:

1. Based on field observations, evaluate locations and sites where pest problems commonly occur to determine pest population, size, occurrence, and natural enemy population, if present. Identify conditions that contribute to the development of pest populations, and decisions and practices that could be employed to manage pest populations;
2. Design, construct, and maintain landscapes and buildings to reduce and eliminate pest habitats;
3. Modify management practices, including watering, mulching, waste management, and food storage, to discourage the development of pest population;
4. Modify pest ecosystems to reduce food, water sources, and harborage (locations favorable to pests);
5. Prioritize the use of physical controls such as mowing weeds, using traps, and installing barriers;
6. Use biological controls to introduce or enhance pests' natural enemies;
7. When pest populations reach treatment thresholds (based on how much biological, aesthetic, economic, or other damage is tolerable) non-pesticide management activities will be evaluated before considering the use of pesticides;
8. When pesticides are necessary, select reduced risk pesticides and use the minimum amounts needed to be effective;
9. Apply pesticides at the most effective treatment time, based on pest biology, monitoring, and other variables, such as weather, seasonal changes in wildlife use, and local conditions; and
10. Whenever possible, use pesticide application methods, such as containerized baits, that minimize opportunities for mobilization of the pesticide in stormwater runoff.

The District will identify an IPM coordinator who is responsible for the implementation of this IPM policy.