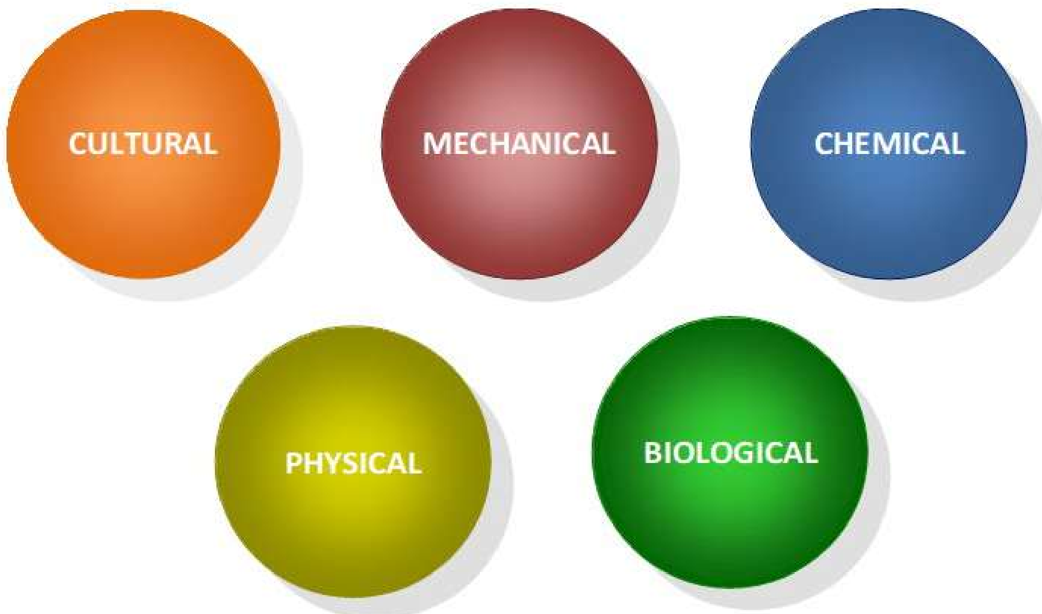
CITY OF VISTA

Integrated Pest Management Program

MAY 10, 2023



Approved By:

Chris Arce

Chris Arce
Director of Public Works

CITY OF VISTA
CALIFORNIA

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1 Background

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a sustainable and strategic approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, mechanical, environmental/physical, and chemical control measures in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.

The focus of the IPM program is long-term prevention of pests and minimizing their damage by selecting and applying the most effective and least toxic pest control methods. Integrated Pest Management Program strives to protect public health and reduce the impacts chemical pesticides use has on the environment.

This IPM program shall apply to all pest control activities and pesticide use in buildings and related facilities; grounds and open space; and other property owned or managed by the City of Vista (City) and conducted by City staff or contractors. City officers, employees and contractors are required to follow this policy.

2 Purpose

The IPM program outlines procedures to be followed to protect the health and safety of staff and public, and to protect environmental health, water quality, and desirable species. The goal of the City's IPM program is to utilize the most environmentally sound approaches to pest management, and to reduce where possible, the volume and toxicity of chemical pest control treatments.

Definitions used throughout this plan are included in Appendix A.

3 Policy

In addressing pest management needs, the City shall focus on long-term prevention or ongoing suppression of pest problems, including consideration of a "no action" approach to minimize or preclude the need to use chemical pest control methods.

It is the policy of the City of Vista that:

1. A tiered approach will be followed in managing pests in the following order:
    a. Cultural/mechanical/environmental/and biological controls.
    b. Organic pesticides.
    c. Chemical controls.
        i. The least toxic to human health will be used and limited wherever the public congregates.

2. Departments performing pest management, as well as any contractors providing pest management services to the City, will comply with the City's IPM Program. This program will apply to all property and grounds owned, leased, or managed by the City, including all City departments.
3. Departments will require contractors providing pest management services on all property owned, leased, or managed by the City to comply with the City's IPM Program.
4. Departments performing pest management will educate and train City staff in the IPM program, practices, and policy for new-hires and on an annual basis.

4 Program Goals

The Goals of the IPM program are:

1. Protect human health and the surrounding environment by reducing chemical pesticide usage on City owned properties, and eliminating its use, more specifically, in parks, athletic fields and playgrounds areas (wherever people and children congregate).
2. Monitor presence of pests on a routine basis and ensure the most safe and effective pest control methods are being used (see Section 5 "Tiered Approach to Pest Control Measures" below).
3. Educate and train City personnel on the Best Management Practices (BMPs) on selecting and applying pesticides.
4. Effectively communicate usage of chemical pesticides through signs, notices, and online literature where applicable.
5. Use EPA level pesticides in a targeted manner, when deemed necessary by supervisory staff to protect public safety; to prevent a threat to sensitive species or native habitats.

5 Tiered Approach to Pest Control Measures

The methods described in Section 5.1.1 through 5.1.4 are the first to be used when addressing a pest problem. Mechanical and physical controls are preferred and typically a combination of methods will be used to increase their effectiveness. Chemicals may be applied in accordance with the approaches for parks, streets adjacent to schools, downtown, and major City streets and medians, and all other City properties are described in sections 5.3.1 through 5.3.5.

5.1 Non-Chemical Pest Control Measures

5.1.1 Cultural Controls

The City shall utilize cultural controls which are modifications of normal plant care activities that reduce or prevent pests. In addition to those methods used in the pest preventions, other cultural control methods include adjusting the frequency and amount of irrigation, fertilization, and mowing height.

5.1.2 Mechanical Controls

The City shall utilize mechanical control tactics involving the use of manual labor and machinery to reduce or eliminate pest problems using methods such as handpicking, physical barriers, or machinery to reduce pest abundance indirectly.

5.1.3 Environmental/Physical Controls

The City shall utilize the environmental manipulations that indirectly control or prevent pests by altering temperature, light, and humidity. Although in outdoor situations these tactics are difficult to use for most pests, they can be effective in controlling birds and mammals if their habitat can be modified such that they do not choose to live or roost in the area.

5.1.4 Biological Controls

The City shall utilize a biological control practice which uses living organisms to reduce pest populations. These organisms are often also referred to as beneficials, natural enemies or biocontrols. They act to keep pest populations low enough to prevent significant economic damage. Biocontrols include pathogens, parasites, predators, competitive species, and antagonistic organisms. Beneficial organisms can occur naturally or can be purchased and released. The most common organisms used for biological control in landscapes are predators, parasites, pathogens, and herbivores.

5.2 Pesticide Control Measures

Pesticides are to be utilized only as described in Section 5.3.1 through 5.3.5. Selected chemical controls will be applied to minimize their possible harm to people, non-target organisms, and the environment. Guidance for using chemical controls for emergency situations are described below.

1. **Emergency situation exception**. If the cultural, mechanical, environmental/physical, and/or biological methods are found to be lacking and there is a risk to public property, economic or budgetary loss, a threat to a sensitive habitat, compliance that must be met, or there is a threat to a building then pesticides may be used as follows as described below:
    a. Bait formulations of pesticides will be used where appropriate.
    b. EPA Toxicity Category III "CAUTION" label pesticides if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss when other methods do not adequately control the pest. A written recommendation from the Maintenance Supervisor is required.
    c. EPA Toxicity Category II "WARNING" label pesticides if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss when other methods do not adequately control the pest. A written recommendation from the Maintenance Supervisor is required.

5.3 Approach for Specific Areas

The following subsections include the approved tiered approach for different areas in the City. No Glyphosate or Dithlopyr herbicides will be used on City Properties.

5.3.1 Parks

1. Use hand removal (mechanical control) as the primary control measure.
2. Avoid chemical herbicide use except for emergency situations (see Section 5.2).
    a. No pesticides will be applied to playgrounds and picnic table areas.
3. See Section 5.5 for signage requirements.

5.3.2 Streets by Schools

1. Hand removal (mechanical control) is the primary control measure.
2. No chemical herbicides will be used within 0.25 miles of schools.
    a. Supplemental controls may include organic pesticides in emergency situations (see section 5.2).
3. See Section 5.5 for signage requirements.
4.

5.3.3 Downtown

1. Hand removal (mechanical control) is the primary control measure.
2. Avoid chemical herbicide use except for emergency situations (see Section 5.2).
3. See Section 5.5 for signage requirements.

5.3.4 Major City Streets and Medians

Areas with low or no pedestrian use, and especially areas with high traffic. Excludes the Vista Village area and around schools (see above sections).

1. Use chemical herbicides, two to four times each year, as the primary control method.
2. Apply chemicals using a truck or trailer mounted sprayer.
3. Target areas shall be limited to sidewalks, shoulders, medians, and adjacent to the SR-78 on and off-ramps (see Figure 1).
4. See Section 5.5 for signage requirements.
5.

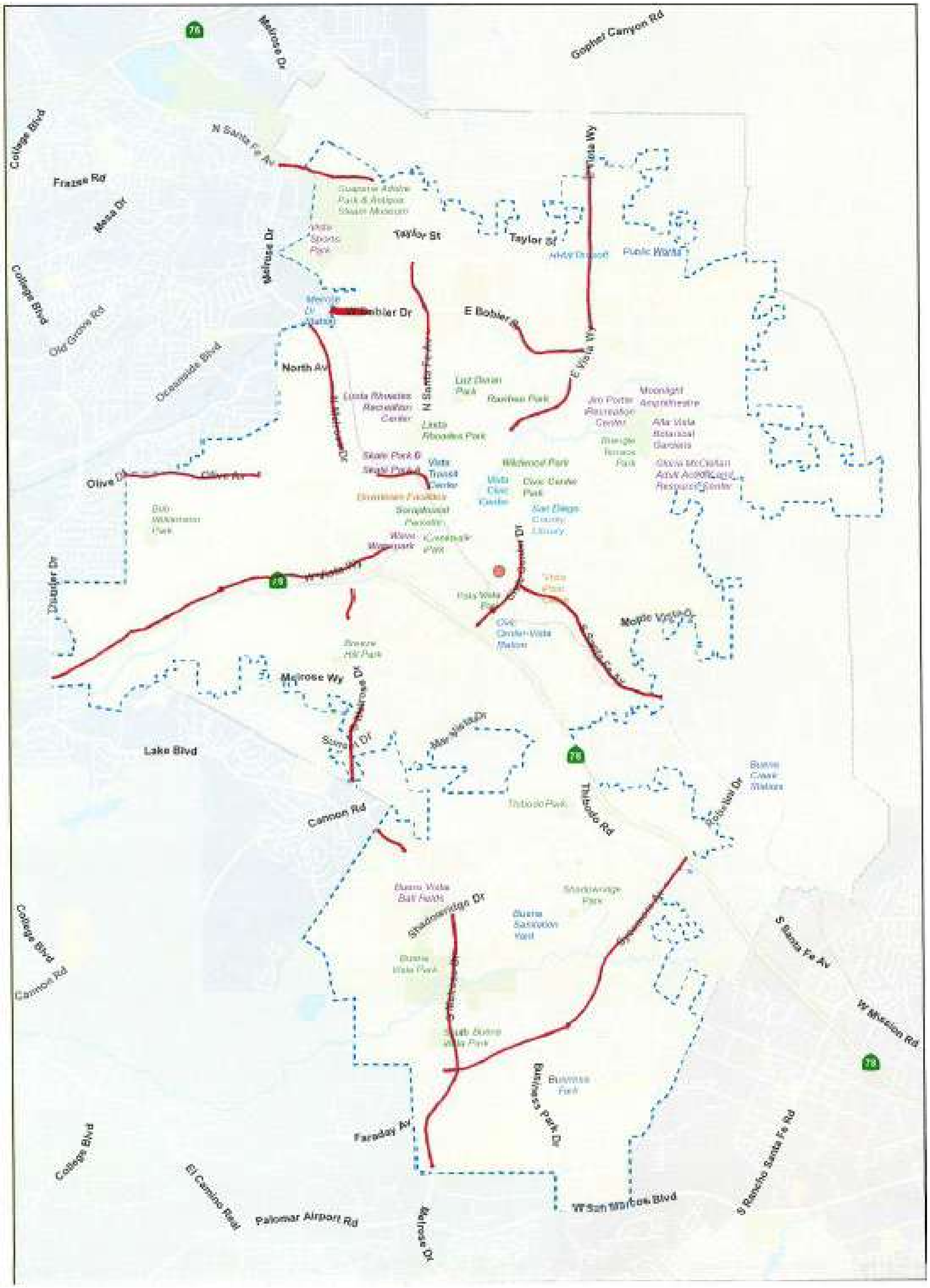

Figure 1. Chemical herbicide application areas (red) along major roads.

5.3.5 All Other City Properties

When methods described in section 5.3.1 through 5.3.4 are not effective, the City will utilize the following chemical control methods in order of priority listed below:

1. Trapping (to include "Live") where feasible.
2. Bait formulations of insecticides will be used where appropriate.
3. Organic pesticides with the least toxic pesticides (Category III) being applied before Category II or Category I pesticides where feasible.
   a. EPA Toxicity Category III "CAUTION" label pesticides only if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss, when other methods do not adequately control the pest.
   b. EPA Toxicity Category II "WARNING" label pesticides only if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss, when other methods do not adequately control the pest.
   c. EPA Toxicity Category I "DANGER" label pesticides only if deemed necessary to protect public health and economic loss, when other methods do not adequately control the pest.

5.4 Approval and Application of Chemical Pesticides

When the pesticide control measures as described in Section 5.2 are required the following measures shall be implemented.

1. Pesticides shall be approved by the Maintenance Supervisor and/or Division Manager for their area of oversight prior to use. A Safety Data Sheet (SDS) must be obtained of the pesticide being applied on City property and filed into the City's database if not already there. A label of the pesticide being applied must be given to the Maintenance Supervisor and/or Division Manager prior to the application for City record. Monthly "Use Reports" filed with the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's office must also be sent to the appropriate Maintenance Supervisor and or Division Manager.
2. Pesticides shall only be applied by those persons trained by a person possessing a valid California Qualified Applicators License (QAL) or Certificate (QAC) or a Structural Pest Control License. Application shall be in strict accordance with all governing regulations. Records of all operations shall be kept per California

Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR), or the California Structural Pest Control Board.

3. Pesticides shall be applied in a manner to avoid contamination of non-target areas. Precautionary measures shall be employed to keep the public from entering the spray zone until safe.
4. The City shall include provisions within Public Works Agreement Contracts or Professional Services Agreement Contracts to include the tenants of the IPM and include the IPM as an exhibit of the contract to ensure Contractor compliance.

5.5 Signage requirements

1. Signage requirements must be followed if required per the instructions section and the manufacturer's label.
2. The City requires that any parks area being sprayed with a pesticide, that area must/shall be delineated by ways to notify citizens that the area is/has been sprayed. Signs must/shall be posted at the location 24 hours before and after being sprayed (if manufacture label states and or the written recommendation by (PCA) is different, those directions "Must" be followed).
3. Signage requirements are included in Attachment B.

6 Permits and Training

All personnel or contractors will be trained and certified annually. Instructions and warnings for all chemical pesticides and herbicides will be strictly followed. Pesticides will be applied by a valid California Qualified Applicators License holder, typically City employee or under supervision of a Qualified Applicator.

CalAgPermits will be used for Statewide Pesticide Permitting and Use Reporting when required.

7 Record Keeping

Monitoring the effectiveness of the IPM program over time requires diligent tracking of several items. All records will be entered into Cityworks by Public Works staff.

Revisions to IPM Program

Staff will provide updates to the IPM program as needed. Updates to the plans will be documented and the updated plan will be distributed to staff involved in pesticide use.

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Attachment A

Definitions

Definitions

A. “**City**” means the City of Vista.
B. “**Glyphosate**” means a specific broad-spectrum, post emergent, non-selective, systemic herbicide, ($C_3H_8NO_5P$) which effectively kills or suppresses most plant types, including grasses, perennials, vines, shrubs, and trees.
C. “**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)**,” means a decision-making process which selects, integrates, and implements long-term pest control strategies to prevent or control pest populations without unnecessary pesticide use. IPM uses a "whole systems approach", looking at the target species as it relates to the entire ecosystem. Control methods are cultural, physical, mechanical, biological, or chemical in nature and include effective monitoring and inspection to detect pest problems and correct inadequate conditions. Action to control pests is only undertaken when predetermined action thresholds are met. All control methods must be effective, with the least-risk to health and the environment and include use of preventative solutions to avoid future pest problems.
D. “**Integrated Pest Management Plan (Plan)** means Administrative Policy G009 which describes the implementation guidelines, procedures, and fundamental principles of IPM
E. “**Neonicotinoids**” means synthetic chemical insecticides that are similar in structure and action to nicotine a naturally occurring plant compound.
F. “**Pest**” means any of the following that is, or is liable to become, dangerous or detrimental to the agricultural or nonagricultural environment of the state: (a) Any insect, predatory animal, rodent, nematode or weed; (b) Any form of terrestrial, aquatic, or aerial plant or animal, virus, fungus, bacteria, or other microorganism (except viruses, fungi, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals); and (c) Anything that the director (of CDFA), by regulation, declares to be a pest. California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC).
G. “**Pesticide**” means any substance or mixture of substances which is intended to be used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, as defined in California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) section 12754.5, which may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, man, animals, or households, or be present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment whatsoever.

H. “**Reasonable Alternative**” means a feasible option for pest control which considers the economic, social, and environmental costs and benefits of the proposed choices.

I. “**Antimicrobial agents**" means any substance or mixture of substances intended for inhibiting the growth of or destroying any bacteria, fungi pathogenic to human and other animals, or viruses declared to be pests under Section 12754.5 of the California Food and Agricultural Code, except slime control agents, substances intended for the use in or on humans or other animals, and use in or on processed food, beverages, and pharmaceuticals. Antimicrobial agents include but are not limited to disinfectants; sanitizers; bacteriostats; sterilizers; fungicides and fungi-stats applied to raw material or manufactured products.

J. “**Best Management Practices (BMP)**" means actions based on current science and technology that have been proven to be effective in the control and management of the site or pests to prevent or reduce the incidence of pest problems, with careful consideration given to protect public health and safety, wildlife, and the environment.

K. “**Contract**" means a binding written agreement, including but not limited to a contract, lease, permit, license or easement between a person, firm, corporation, or other entity, including a governmental entity, and a city department, which grants a right to use or occupy property of the city for a specified purpose or purposes.

L. “**Contractor**" means a person, firm, corporation, or other entity, including a governmental entity that enters into a contract with a city department.

M. “**Eco-exempt**" means pesticides designated by U.S. EPA as minimum risk pesticides by Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, Rodenticide Act Section 25(b) and California Code of Regulations Section 6147, or products approved for organic production systems by the National Organic Program.

N. “**Organic Materials Research Institute (OMRI)**" means an organization that determines which input products are allowed for use in organic production and processing.

O. “**Special Use Pesticides**” means materials that do not meet the criteria for use, but are considered critical to the protection of public health and safety, the environment, wildlife, or the preservation of city property.

P. “**Toxicity Category I, II, Ill, IV Pesticide Product**" means any pesticide product that meets the United States Environmental Protection Agency criteria for the appropriate toxicity categories and bearing on the front label panel the word

Danger, Warning, or Caution, as specified in Section 156.10 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Q. "Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65)" means a requirement for the State of California to publish a list of chemicals known to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harms. The state regularly updates the list, which currently includes hundreds of chemicals. (https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition- 65/proposition-65-list).

R. **"Highly Invasive Species"** means these species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically. (https://www.cal- ipc.org/plants/inventory/)

Attachment B

Example Signage

CITY OF VISTA

CALIFORNIA

KEEP OUT

PESTICIDE

APPLICATION IS IN

PROGRESS

ONCE SIGNS ARE REMOVED THE

AREA WILL BE SAFE TO ENTER

THANK YOU