

**2017 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE DRAFT**  
*(submitted for consideration by Commissioner Wickham)*

**NUMBER** ESD-17-0X

**TITLE** Eliminate use of chemical pesticides on city owned or leased property

**BACKGROUND**

**Lead Department:** Environmental Services

**Support Department(s):** Community Services, Public Works

**Sponsor(s):**

Board/Commission: Sustainability Commission

**History:**

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

**SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

**What are the key elements of the study?**

- Identify current costs to city of purchasing and applying pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, & rodenticides) that are covered in the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM). Separately identify costs of “Pesticides of Concern” and other chemical pesticides (for example glyphosate) used that are not on the ‘concern’ list. Identify expected net costs of further reducing and eliminating all pesticide use on city property (increased cost of mechanical weed removal, physical barriers, etc. as prescribed in the IPM plan minus savings from not purchasing pesticides).
- Identify benefits to community and environment. These will not be monetized since it is beyond the scope of this study to value the long term savings for reducing human illness or assessing the value of environmental benefits.
- Identify cost of a pilot study in selected parks or city properties to measure costs / savings in a real application.
- Study cost of implementing a public outreach program to encourage pesticide elimination at homes, schools and businesses and provide information on alternative control means.
- Through a survey of residents and businesses, identify level of awareness and concern by the public on this topic and the desire for the city to devote attention to further pesticide reduction and eventual elimination.
- Benchmark and monitor progress of other cities in the region who have undertaken similar actions.
- Review the City’s IPM Plan (from 2009 or 2010?) and consider cost/benefit to add:
  - a) public notification prior to the application of pesticides in public areas
  - b) reporting measures to allow the public to be informed on the quantities of each chemical pesticide used by the city (or associated contractors) on an annual basis,

and

c) annual targets for reduction of pesticide use down to zero.

**What precipitated this study?**

Concern that using chemicals to control weeds and pests will contaminate water and soil leading to negative long term impacts to human health, and non-targeted species (bees, aquatic life, birds, pets, and beneficial insects). Other cities in the region are investigating elimination of pesticides in city parks (Reference [Menlo Park action in Fall 2015](#))

**Planned Completion Year:** [2017]