



AGENCY: City Council  
MEETING DATE: November 25, 2019  
DEPARTMENT: Public Works  
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## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### **TITLE:**

**Receive Report and Recommendation from Public Works and Facilities Committee and Consider: (1) Adoption of City Council Resolution Approving an Integrated Pest Management Plan; and (2) Introducing by Title Only and Waiving the First Reading of Ordinance 955-2019 Repealing and Replacing Chapter 6.10 [Weed Abatement Procedures] and Adding Chapter 6.11 [Integrated Pest Management] to Title 6 [Health and Sanitation] of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code**

### **ISSUE:**

At the April 2019 meeting of the Public Works and Facilities Committee meeting, Committee requested staff review and report on a potential ban of Round-Up™ and other products containing the glycine chemical glyphosate for use on City property. This item was brought before the committee at the May and July meetings of 2019. Based upon the guidance received by Committee and staff's knowledge about this topic, staff is proposing the adoption of an Integrated Pest Management Plan to implement a policy for best practices in applying pesticides as well as introducing an Ordinance to amend Chapter 6.10 [Weed Abatement Procedures]; and to incorporate into the Municipal Code a new Chapter 6.11 [Integrated Pest Management] to regulate the application of pesticides on City owned property.

The goal of the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) is to provide a basis for pest management that will protect public health, as well as water quality, and non-target plants and animals by utilizing the most environmentally sound approaches to pest management by prescribing the types and toxicity limits of chemical pest control treatments applied on City property. The IPMP will allow the use of pesticides under stringent rules to ensure on-going weed and pest management with limited resourced and tight budgets.

### **ANALYSIS:**

For the purposes of this report and the IPMP, the word pesticide will be used interchangeably with herbicide, fungicide, rodenticide, etc. As defined by the California Food and Agricultural Code, a pest includes any of the following that is or is liable to become, dangerous or detrimental to the public health or the agricultural or nonagricultural environment of the state: (1) Any insect, predatory animal, rodent, nematode or weed; (2) 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 humans or other living animals); (3) Anything that the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture or the Director of Pesticide Regulation for the California Department of Food and Agriculture by regulation declares to be a pest.

Based on extensive research and consideration, for your review is a model for Pest Management that meets the committee's goal of eliminating glyphosate from usage on City

property as well as providing guidelines for industry best practices to reduce pesticide applications to the maximum extent feasible and includes all reasonable measures to protect human and environmental health. The modified and newly proposed code sections (the ordinance) will provide regulation for the implementation of the policies as referenced in the IPMP. Upon review and approval, the IPMP will be a dynamic document that can be updated (more easily than say the Ordinance that references it). Thus staff's approach was to list out allowable chemicals (Reduced-Risk Pesticides) and explicitly prohibited chemicals in this IPMP document rather than through the Ordinance.

Staff is recommending a two-tiered approach to limiting pesticides.

(1) The City Engineering Department will maintain a prescribed list of allowable pesticides instead of completely eliminating the use of pesticides to ensure Maintenance Staff and the City remains able to make informed and responsible decisions about the applications of pesticides. Attachment 4 is the proposed "Reduced Risk Chemicals List" obtained from the City of San Francisco's Integrated Pest Management Plan.

(2) City staff is proposing a list (Table 2 in the IPMP) of five chemical groups that will be explicitly banned from use on City property. These chemical groups are Organochlorines, Organophosphates, Carbamates, Neonicotinoids, and the Glycine chemical group containing glyphosate.

Attachment 4 is the list of chemicals allowed by the City of San Francisco. City staff has further eliminated three chemicals from use by the City of Fort Bragg. These additional chemicals eliminated from the allowable use list, are products which contain an active ingredient banned by item (2) and Table 2 described above.

Staff's recommendation to prescribe allowable chemicals instead of approaching the IPMP as a full ban will allow the City to ensure safe applications of pesticides which may be necessary and appropriate for the control of invasive plants, to protect lands from fire threats, to prevent the spread of communicable disease spread by pests, and for the protection of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). Pesticides, when applied in accordance with a properly designed pest management plan will have minimal impact to non-target species.

Controlling invasive plants is often a high priority when planning grant funded environmental and restoration projects like the Coastal Trail. The need for pesticides often arises to control invasive plants which impact wildlife habitat by displacing important native plant species that provide food and shelter for other critters. Some invasives also change ecosystem processes such as wildfire frequency and intensity, hydrology or soil chemistry. The US Fish and Wildlife Service, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the National Audubon Society, and other organizations charged with protecting wildlife recognize the detrimental impact of invasive plants. California's Wildlife Action Plan lists invasive species as one of the major threats to wildlife diversity in the state (CDFW 2015). Stewardship projects often include removal of invasive plants, and controlling invasive plants as an immediate action that can support ecosystem resilience, as described by the US Fish and Wildlife Service in its "National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy" (USFWS 2013). The

IPMP focuses on how to best protect wildlife when using herbicides to control invasive plants. Chemical control using herbicides is one component in the Integrated Pest Management toolbox.

The Coastal Trail within the Noyo Headlands Park is approximately 110 acres of land owned and managed by the City. This site has been evaluated by biologists and other environmental professionals during the acquisition, construction, and restoration phases of the project. Large areas of the parklands are covered by invasives like the pampas grass, blackberry, yellow iris, thistle, and ice plant. During the restoration phase and the ongoing maintenance phase, it has become clear that invasive species on the trail cannot be properly maintained without additional resources which include both hired labor and chemical treatment options. The large root structures of the pampas grass and the fact that blackberry (and other vines) smother out all underlying vegetation emphasizes the need for additional erosion controls when manual removal alone is insufficient for these species.

Fort Bragg is a beautiful place where people come to visit the serene natural areas we are tasked with managing. As a community, we need to consider both short- and long-term impacts of pest management and to be realistic about what is required to successfully achieve the objectives of the IPMP, while being considerate of expectations of time, staff, and funds available to pursue the implementation of the IPMP, and maintaining the beauty and environmental health of the land. It is important to note that this plan: (1) only regulates applications of pesticides on publicly owned property and not pesticide use on private properties, and (2) prohibits the use of both Glyphosate and Neonicotinoids, the primary goals of the Public Works and Facilities Committee.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

1. Adopt City Council Resolution Approving an Integrated Pest Management Plan using Attachment 4 (as proposed) as the “Reduced Risk Pesticide List.”
2. Introduce by Title Only, Waiving the First Reading of Ordinance 955-2019 Repealing and Replacing Chapter 6.10 [Weed Abatement Procedures] and Adding Chapter 6.11 [Integrated Pest Management] to Title 6 [Health and Sanitation] of the Fort Bragg Municipal Code.

**ALTERNATIVE ACTION(S):**

1. Make changes to the Reduced Risk Pesticide List.
2. Request additional changes to the Integrated Pest Management Plan or Ordinance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

Almost all municipalities and land managers can point to shortages of funding and resources as barriers to successful invasive plant management. The City’s Maintenance division (responsible for streets, water distribution system, wastewater collection system, storm drains, buildings, parks, and fleet) is staffed by 8-10 people none of whom are solely tasked with landscape maintenance. The City’s Parks and Facilities budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year was \$37,400; that is 2% of the entire Public Works Department budget. The City owns and maintains 50 parcels with the primary maintenance obligations including the following sites:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Acres</b>
<b>Coastal Trail</b>	111.7
<b>Otis Johnson Park</b>	6.6
<b>City Hall Park (landscaped area only)</b>	0.2
<b>Bainbridge Park</b>	1.5
<b>Guest House Museum</b>	1.2
<b>Noyo Beach (excludes leased dredge area)</b>	12.9
<b>Corp Yard &amp; Water Treatment Plant</b>	5.5
<b>Waste Water Treatment Plant</b>	6.1
<b>Police Department landscaped area</b>	-
<b>CV Starr Center-dog park area only</b>	0.6
<b>Water Sources</b>	45.4
<b>Total City Managed Green Space</b>	<b>191.6</b>

The primary cost associated with moving toward the proposed pest management strategy is administrative record keeping and training. However tasks and estimated costs associated with moving toward a pesticide free paradigm would cost the City approximately \$350,000 more per year based on the following sample information:

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**Pesticide Alternatives Environment**

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Mowing and hand pulling  
 Scraping curb grass with shovels  
 Additional new hand tools and equipment  
 A "Do Nothing" Approach

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**Example Costs**

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Example costs devised using the following scenario:  
 Pulling thistle on the west side of the runway  
 12-14 person crew from Parlin Forks availability-dependent  
 12 people \* 10 days=120 person days  
 Equivalent to a 1/2-person year

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**Costs**

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Average 1-person year	\$75,000
1 Vehicle per-person year	\$25,000

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**Estimated Coastal Trail Weed Management**

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Equivalent to 2-persons year	\$150,000
1 Vehicle	\$25,000
<b>Total Estimated Coastal Trail Costs</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

<b>Estimated Right of Way (ROW) Weed Management</b>	
Equivalent to 2-person year	\$150,000
1 Vehicle	\$25,000
<b>Total Estimated ROW Costs</b>	<b>\$175,000</b>

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACT:**

The implementation of this plan as proposed will have little or no impact on greenhouse gas emissions. If an alternate plan which incorporates more manual labor is put into effect, there may be a significant increase in fuel usage for equipment operation.

**CONSISTENCY:**

The Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) is intended to provide a basis for a pest management program that will protect public health, as well as water quality, and non-target plants and animals. The goal of the City’s IPMP is to utilize the most environmentally sound approaches to pest management, and to reduce the volume and toxicity of chemical pest control treatments.

The Phase II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit requires the City to implement a landscape design and maintenance program to reduce the amount of water and pesticides used during City operations and activities. In accordance with the MS4, the City must evaluate pesticide use and application activities performed and then implement practices that reduce the discharge of pesticides. By implementing the IPMP, the City will comply with the pesticide-related landscape management measures.

This policy shall be adopted/amended by Resolution, posted in its current form on the City’s website, and the Ordinances regulating this plan are contained in the following Fort Bragg Municipal Code Sections:

- Chapter 6.10 Weed Abatement Procedures (amended with this item)
- Chapter 6.11 Integrated Pest Management (proposed new with this item)
- Coastal Land Use and Development Code Chapter 17.34 Landscaping Standards
- Inland Land Use and Development Code Chapter 18.34 Landscaping Standards

**IMPLEMENTATION/TIMEFRAMES:**

The proposed IPMP sets the stage for a dynamic and flexible process of evaluating, learning, and adapting to the proposed pest management strategies. To be successful, any conservation program or project must evaluate progress and adjust to improve outcomes. This adaptive management process should ideally be built into the Plan. A strategy should be devised for the completion of the following tasks:

- How frequently do we want to re-visit objectives, strategies, and other key provisions of the IPMP?
- Should an Annual report be made to a selected Committee?
- How frequently should updates be made to the prohibited pesticides and the Reduced Risk Chemicals List?

If the Ordinance is introduced on November 25, 2019 and adopted on December 9, 2019, it will become effective on January 9, 2020.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Ordinance
2. Resolution
3. Integrated Pest Management Plan
4. Proposed Reduced-Risk Pesticide List

**NOTIFICATION:**

1. IPMP Public Outreach Contacts