
Date: June 4, 2019

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Concurrent Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Water Agency, The Board Of Directors Of The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation And Open Space District, And The Board Of Commissioners Of The Community Development Commission, State Of California, Establishing Integrated Pest Management Policies And Prohibiting The Use Of Synthetic Pesticides, Including Herbicides, Insecticides, and Fungicides, In Sensitive Areas

Whereas, the County of Sonoma, the Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water), the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation And Open Space District (Ag + Open Space), and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, are committed to using pesticides appropriately, thoughtfully, and only when necessary, and wish to provide the public with the information required to confirm this is the case;

Whereas, Integrated Pest Management is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties; holistic Integrated Pest Management techniques can lessen the need for pesticides, including synthetic herbicides;

Whereas, the County of Sonoma and Sonoma Water are in the process of updating their Integrated Pest Management policies;

Whereas, at the request of a coalition of community advocates and County leadership, the County of Sonoma's Department of General Services determined it was feasible to stop using synthetic herbicides on the County campus, and stopped using such chemicals for vegetation management on the County campus in 2018;

Whereas, a trial of roadside vegetation management using certified organic alternatives to synthetic herbicides will commence in 2019;

Whereas, Sonoma County Regional Parks, Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works, and Sonoma Water, have established Integrated Pest Management programs or are in process of updating Integrated Pest Management programs that will facilitate environmental stewardship, support public health and safety, and reduce synthetic pesticide use;

Whereas, an annual report on pesticide use, publicly accessible Integrated Pest Management programs, and a publicly available list of “no synthetic spray” zones will enhance transparency and accountability by enabling the public to understand and comment upon pesticide policies;

Whereas, some synthetic pesticides — including herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides — have been shown to increase the prevalence of resistant weeds, insects, and fungi, which in turn leads to increased use of existing synthetic pesticides and development of new synthetic pesticides, and may additionally contribute to global public health threats including the rise of *Candida auris*;

Whereas there is public concern about research findings that certain synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides induce epigenetic modifications in plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates, and public concern that these chemicals may lead to long-term human health impacts, including endocrine disruption and carcinogenesis;

Whereas, it is the intent of the County of Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Ag + Open Space, and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission, to reduce human contact with synthetic herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides through the reduction of application and use in public spaces;

Whereas, the threat of catastrophic wildfire and the need to expand vegetation management efforts should not drive an increase in the application of synthetic herbicides, but should instead instigate a holistic, ecological approach to wildfire risk reduction and vegetation management;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Sonoma, the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Water Agency, the Board Of Commissioners of the Community Development Commission, and the Board of Directors of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District hereby concurrently resolve as follows:

1. The County of Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Ag + Open Space, and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission will not use synthetic herbicides or synthetic insecticides on agency-maintained campuses, sidewalks, playing fields, plazas, playgrounds, County-maintained libraries, or in other “no synthetic spray” zones established in Integrated Pest Management plans.

2. By the end of 2019, staff for the County of Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Ag + Open Space, and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission are directed to submit their respective “no synthetic spray” zones to their respective boards for approval.
3. In parks and sensitive areas, synthetic pesticides will not be used for routine, ongoing maintenance, and pesticide use will be limited to targeted, specific weed infestations where non-chemical means are ineffective and the threat of non-action is significant as established in Integrated Pest Management Plans.
4. The County of Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Ag + Open Space, and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission will eliminate pesticide use in all areas and by all departments and contractors to the maximum extent practicable.
5. Pesticides shall be used only if evaluation indicates they are needed and they are applied according to agency guidelines.
6. The County of Sonoma, Sonoma Water, Ag + Open Space, and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission will, to the maximum extent practicable, implement organic or mechanical alternatives to synthetic pesticides.
7. Any required treatments shall be made with the goal of removing only the target organism.
8. Pest controls shall be selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial, non-target organisms, and the environment.
9. The use of pesticides shall not be used in a manner that threatens water quality.
10. Sonoma County and Sonoma Water staff are directed to partner with other agencies and organizations to encourage the use of Integrated Pest Management. Each agency is directed to continue the policy that native or drought-tolerant vegetation will be preferred and planted strategically to reduce water, pesticide, and fertilizer needs.
11. Each County Department with landscape management responsibilities shall have an Integrated Pest Management Plan that integrates countywide policies.
12. Staff for each agency shall report to its Board annually on pesticide use.
13. For the annual report to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, as part of the County’s existing stormwater program, the Permit and Resources Management Department (Permit Sonoma) shall coordinate the preparation of an annual report on countywide pesticide use in County operations. Departments with landscape

management activities are directed to provide Permit Sonoma with any necessary information or data required to complete this report.

Supervisors/Directors/Commissioners:

Gorin:

Zane:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Rabbitt:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

So Ordered.