

**Minutes**  
**Contra Costa County IPM Advisory Committee**  
**Subcommittee on IPM Decision-Making**  
**April 5, 2018**

Members present: Andrew Sutherland (chair), Susan Captain, Larry Yost, Jim Donnelly

Members absent: Jim Cartan

Staff present: Joe Yee, Public Works; Tanya Drlik, IPM Coordinator

Members of the public present: Dave Shoemaker and Susan JunFish, Parents for a Safer Environment

**1. Introductions**

**2. Public comment on items not on the agenda**

There was none.

**3. Approve minutes from March 1, 2018**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the March 1, 2018 minutes as written (JD/SC).

The motion carried:

Ayes: Yost, Captain, Donnelly, Sutherland

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Cartan

**4. Review the flood control decision document**

Andrew read a communication from Cheryl Wilen (U.C. Extension) about steam weeding (see attached).

Susan Captain asked if it is necessary to have bare ground on the side of the road and if there could be low growing green plants instead. Larry Yost and Joe Yee said there are areas where bare ground is necessary such as road shoulders and around curves. Motorists need to be able to pull off the road safely, so they need to see what they are pulling off onto. It's also important to have clear ground so that hot car engines don't start fires on the side of the road. Larry noted that California does not have a climate that is conducive to growing plants on the side of the road.

The committee reviewed the document and asked the IPM Coordinator to make several changes. Members will explore the National Pesticide Information Site, and the IPM Coordinator will talk to the County Hydrologist about whether the questions regarding water in the document make sense.

The IPM Coordinator will make changes in both the flood control and roadside documents and bring them back to the committee.

*Public Comment*

Susan JunFish is concerned about the aquifer and contests the question in the document about drinking water reservoirs.

**5. Review the ground squirrel decision document**

The committee discussed Andrew Sutherland's written comments that were included in the agenda packet.

- From Larry Yost
  - The grounds squirrel program is a legacy program in the Agriculture Department.
  - Fifty years ago there was a team that killed ground squirrels all year round.
  - In the state's agriculture code, there is a section that gives authority to County Agriculture Departments to control grounds squirrels because of their threat to agriculture.
  - County Ag is not really a contractor, and CCC Public Works is not obligated to go through the Ag Department to control ground squirrels.

- The Ag Department is not doing this work for profit. It is just recouping costs for their services.
- Contra Costa Water District contracts with the Ag Department for ground squirrel work.
- The Department does not manufacture bait in the County. They buy their bait from other counties.
- Monitoring for ground squirrels on the roads is done just before and just after treatment. Untreated grain is scattered in sites where ground squirrels have been found historically in order to make it easier to find squirrels in those areas.
- Joe Yee commented that the Public Works Department considers the Ag Department staff to be subject matter experts.
- Jim Donnelly asked, Is it better to have everyone doing ground squirrel control on their own or having the Ag Department, which understands IPM, doing it?
- Andrew Sutherland would like more information on how monitoring is being done.

*Public Comment*

Susan JunFish read a statement (see attached).

Committee members asked to see the Ventura County study mentioned in Susan JunFish's statement. The IPM Coordinator will send it out.

**6. Plan next agenda**

The next meeting will be May 10, 2018, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

- Review the flood control decision document (20 minutes)
- Review the roadside decision document (10 minutes)
- Begin the review of the ground squirrel decision document (70 minutes)
- Other business (20 minutes)