

APPENDIX G

**LANDSCAPE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE**

G.1 PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE AND FERTILIZER MANAGEMENT

G.1.1 Application and Handling

The federal Pesticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and California Title 3, Division 6, Pesticides and Pest Control Operations place strict controls over pesticide application and handling and specify training, annual refresher, and testing requirements. The regulations generally cover:

- A list of approved pesticides and selected uses, updated regularly
- General application information
- Equipment use and maintenance procedures
- Record keeping

The California Department of Pesticide Regulations and the County Agricultural Commission coordinate and maintain the licensing and certification programs. All public agency employees who apply pesticides and herbicides in “agricultural use” areas such as parks, golf courses, rights-of-way and recreation areas should be properly certified in accordance with state regulations. Contracts for landscape maintenance should include similar requirements.

Following is a brief summary of the regulations:

- Agricultural pest control businesses must be supervised by a Qualified Applicator Licensee and individuals who apply or supervise the application of restricted pesticides must have a current Qualified Applicator Certificate.
- Every two years, the Qualified Applicator Certificate holder must show proof that they have secured a minimum of 40 hours of continuing education as a prerequisite to reissuance of the license or certificate. Continuing education credits may be obtained by attending classes and seminars approved by the state as meeting the requirements for the license and certificate program.
- All Qualified Applicator Licensees and Qualified Applicator Certificate holders are required to report pesticide usage on a monthly basis to the Department of Agriculture. Each report must detail the specific locations where pesticides were used, the type and quantity of pesticides used, and other relevant information.
- The Qualified Applicator Certificate holder will conduct monthly inspections to monitor storage, handling and disposal of the pesticides.
- The Department of Agriculture will review the pesticide application programs of public agencies to verify that all applications are made in accordance with written

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recommendations, the appropriate personnel are properly certified, and the recommendations are appropriate for the range of pests likely to have been encountered.

These and other environmental regulations also require all users of hazardous products to keep Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all products readily accessible. These are detailed application and handling sheets provided by the manufacturers and updated as necessary. All employees who handle pesticides should be familiar with the most recent MSDS files.

- Additional BMPs that should be considered include:
- Always use caution when handling any hazardous product.
- Read and follow use instructions.
- Use up all of the product before disposing or give the extra to other agencies or community groups.
- Do not dispose of product down storm drains, into creeks, onto the ground, or by burning.

G.1.2 Minimizing the Use

Consider specific alternative products in lieu of pesticides to control insects, fungi and weeds:

- Certain insects, such as lacewing and ladybugs, can be used against unwanted pests;
- A type of snail has been used successfully in Los Angeles County to control the common garden snail.
- Compost and soil amendments can be used as natural alternatives to fertilizers.

For more information on alternatives, contact agencies such as the Bio-Integral Resource Center (BIRC) in Berkeley, which conducts research and produces brochures and a newsletter on Integrated Pest Management. Modern gardening guides, such as the Sunset books, also include information on fertilizer and pesticide alternatives.

G.1.3 Storage and Inspection

The same regulations that govern pesticide application and handling also cover storage and inspection. As discussed in G.1.1, these requirements apply to appropriate public agency staff and should be included in landscape maintenance contracts. Following is a brief summary of the applicable portions of the regulations:

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- The Qualified Applicator Certificate holder will conduct monthly inspections to monitor storage, handling and disposal of the pesticides.
- At least quarterly, the County Agricultural Commissioner will consult with public agencies concerned with air and water quality, fish and wildlife, and others, to identify past or potential problems associated with the use of pesticides.
- The Commissioner may enter and inspect any fields, areas, structures and greenhouses where pesticides are handled, stored or applied to determine compliance.

Additional BMPs that should be considered include:

- Store products away from sources of heat, sparks, and flames.
- Store products in their original containers and keep them well labeled.
- Do not store chemicals in food containers.

G.2 MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL DECHLORINATION

There is no specific numeric limit on what constitutes a dechlorinated pool discharge to the storm drainage system. However, it should be safe to assume that pool water that meets the same chlorine requirements as wastewater discharges to a receiving water is adequately dechlorinated. Therefore, it is suggested that chlorine in pool water be reduced to 0.1 parts-per-million (ppm) before discharging the water to a storm drain system. This level can be easily achieved using chemicals available at pool-supply outlets or through private contractors, and can be measured with a standard pool test kit.