



NEWS RELEASE

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Marin County Parks Receives State's IPM Innovator Award
Integrated Pest Management Works with Nature

San Rafael, CA - Marin County Parks Superintendent and IPM Coordinator Ed Hulme and his IPM team will be recognized at an awards ceremony hosted by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (CDPR) on Thursday, January 26, 2012, at 1:30 p.m. at the California Environmental Protection Agency Headquarters in Sacramento. CDPR developed the IPM Innovator award program to recognize pioneering pest control managers for their leadership in voluntarily implementing reduced-risk pest management systems and in sharing solutions. IPM is the acronym for Integrated Pest Management, which is a process for managing pests and properties to protect public health and safety, wildlife and the environment.

Featured on the Green Cities California website (www.greencitiescalifornia.org/best-practice/integrated-pest-management-marin-county), the Marin County program is a model and resource for local government agencies and communities working to establish IPM programs. In fact, pesticide use on lands owned and/or maintained by Marin County has reduced by nearly 90% over the past 10 years. Comprehensive record keeping by county staff makes it easy to identify trends in chemical usage and labor needs. For example, now Marin County relies heavily on organic products (instead of pesticides) and labor-intensive, non-chemical techniques such as hand-weeding and brush removal. Some of the increased labor costs associated with non-chemical techniques can be offset by a significant increase in volunteer hours. Half of all labor related to IPM in Marin County for 2010 was performed by volunteers, and similar levels of service continued in 2011.

IPM's science-based environmental ethic has its roots in the heightened public awareness inspired 50 years ago by Rachel Carson's bestselling book, "A Silent Spring," (1962). In 2012, Mr. Hulme is working to secure grant funding to boost the county's IPM program forward into the future and demonstrate the web that connects people with nature. Potential programs may include: developing environmental education activities for all ages and diverse communities; forming cooperative efforts with local agencies to reduce pest attractants; designing and testing innovative, non-chemical strategies to target rats and yellowjackets; and creating a youth recreational curriculum focused on water safety instruction, aquatic biology and coastal cleanup. Through existing and proposed activities of the Marin County IPM program, Marin County Parks remains committed to the ideals set forth by the CDPR for IPM Innovators.

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