

Regulation/Training

City staff and contract staff rely upon the EPA and State approval of herbicides for use in weed eradication. Locally, the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's office regulates the use of these approved weed control chemicals, organic or synthetic.

All pesticide applicators in the State of California are highly regulated, including city park maintenance staff and the city's contracted park maintenance staff. Applicators receive a license from the State and are thoroughly trained annually. Reporting of all pesticide use is required and provided by each applicator to the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office monthly, recording the prior month's applications. Staff and contract staff are highly trained and are routinely trained in the city's IPM strategy to use physical, cultural, mechanical and biological means for weed eradication prior to selecting a chemical product.

The selection of pest control products (organic or synthetic herbicides) and the timing of applications also incorporates best management practices from the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements.