

Meeting Date: 3/1/2016

Report Type: Consent

Report ID: 2016-00279

Title: Prohibiting the Use of Neonicotinoids as Part of the City's Integrated Pest Management Policies (Two-Thirds Vote Required)

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Pass: 1) a Motion temporarily suspending the requirement in Rule 13.B.1.a of the Council Rules of Procedure that non-binding resolutions be referred to the Law and Legislation Committee [two-thirds vote required]; and 2) a Resolution a) directing the City Manager to modify the City's integrated pest management policies and landscape maintenance and procurement practices, and negotiate amendments to existing contracts, to eliminate the use of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids on City properties; b) supporting the passage of federal legislation and urging the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend registration of neonicotinoids; c) directing the City Manager to provide information to the public regarding the effects of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids; and d) supporting a national moratorium on the sale and use of such pesticides, to protect bees and other insect pollinators.

Contact: Randi L. Knott, Director of Governmental Affairs, Office of the City Manager (916) 808-5771

Presenter: None

Department: City Manager / Public Works

Division: Executive Office

Dept ID: 02001011

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

2-Resolution

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form

Sheryl Patterson

2/23/2016 4:29:50 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Howard Chan - 2/22/2016 9:15:07 AM

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: Bees and other insect pollinators, which are critical to agricultural production are facing great environmental stress and experiencing die offs and diminishing populations. Neonicotinoids are among the most widely used class of insecticides and are now increasingly under scrutiny for environmental impacts including honey-bee colony collapse and loss of birds due to a reduction in the insect population.

In 2013, European Union regulators imposed an almost total ban on three types of insecticides containing neonicotinoids. Last year, Congress re-introduced a bill titled “Saving America’s Pollinator’s Act” to direct the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to suspend the use of neonicotinoids until a determination could be made regarding the adverse effects on pollinators.

National retailers have recently taken steps to stop selling pesticides with neonicotinoids and other cities have adopted polices to end the use of them. At this time, the City of Sacramento is considering a similar ban.

The Council is also being asked to pass a motion allowing this non-binding resolution to bypass the Law & Legislation Committee in the interest of time.

Policy Considerations: In 2015, Sacramento became officially designated as a “Honey Bee Haven”. This action means that the City would take extra efforts to protect honey bees and all pollinators because of their important role in our farms, flowers and food. This resolution continues in that vein by prohibiting the use of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids for use on City-owned properties and provides for education for the public regarding the use of them in home gardens. Further, it states the City’s support of the “Saving the Pollinators Act” (HR 1284) and urges the EPA to suspend the registration of neonicotinoids until it can complete full environmental assessments.

Economic Impacts: Not applicable

Environmental Considerations: This resolution does not constitute a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Further it supports the City’s adopted Legislative Platform to support a healthy, sustainable and green community.

Sustainability: This resolution also supports the City’s adopted Legislative Platform calling for legislative and regulatory efforts to make products that are less toxic and the City’s Sustainability Plan.

Commission/Committee Action: Not applicable

Rationale for Recommendation: The Council is asked to pass a motion temporarily suspending the requirement in Rule 13.B.1.a of the Council Rules of Procedure that non-binding resolutions be referred to the Law and Legislation Committee for which a 2/3 vote required. The City has consistently supported efforts to 'green' our community and to reduce harmful environmental impacts.

Financial Considerations: This resolution directs the City Manager to negotiate the terms of existing landscape maintenance contracts and construction contracts subject to the City Manager's contracting authority if the contract costs increase due to the substitution of other pesticide products or alternative pest control practices.

RESOLUTION NO. 2016 -

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

APPROVING PROHIBITION ON USE OF NEONICOTINOIDS INSECTICIDES AS PART OF THE CITY'S INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND SUPPORTING A MORATORIUM ON THE SALE AND USE OF SUCH INSECTICIDES TO PROTECT BEES AND OTHER INSECT POLLINATORS

BACKGROUND

- A. The City of Sacramento has adopted and implemented Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policies to limit use of chemical pesticides (which includes insecticides and herbicides) in maintaining landscaped areas in City parks, streets and buildings. IPM practices provide that chemicals are used only when needed, and in combination with other approaches for more effective long-term control of pests and weeds. Chemicals are to be selected and applied in a way that minimizes their possible harm to the public and the environment and spray controls are used to limit the size of the treated area.
- B. Bees and other insect pollinators, which are critical to agricultural production of certain types of crops, are under great environmental stress and experiencing die-offs and diminishing populations. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, honey bee pollinators (*apis mellifera L.*) play a critical role in producing one-third of the nation's food supply.
- C. Neonicotinoids are among the most widely used class of insecticides. In agriculture, neonicotinoid are used to coat seeds or applied to the plant. The hallmark of neonicotinoids is that they are "systemic," which means they travel throughout a plant via its vascular system and distribute the chemical to all parts of the plant tissue, including its nectar and pollen. The neonicotinoid class of chemicals includes acetamiprid, imidacloprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid and thiamethoxam.
- D. In the late 1990s, neonicotinoids came under increasing scrutiny over their environmental impacts. Neonicotinoid use was linked in a range of studies to adverse ecological effects, including honey-bee colony collapse disorder and loss of birds due to a reduction in insect populations. Recent research suggests that there is a possible link between pesticides that contain neonicotinoids and the die-off of plant pollinators, including honey bees, native bees, butterflies, moths and other insects. The Global Taskforce on Systemic Pesticides, a group of 29 independent scientists, examined over 800 peer-review papers on the effects of neonicotinoids on wildlife, as well as water and soil quality, over a four

year period and published a report in 2014 that concluded that neonicotinoids are toxic to bee populations.

- E. In 2013, European Union regulators imposed near-total bans on three types of pesticides containing neonicotinoids to allow further study of their impacts on bees and other insect pollinators. In August 2014, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service announced plans to phase out use of neonicotinoids in National Wildlife Refuges. Last summer, President Obama asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to investigate conflicting reports that pesticides containing a class of chemicals known as neonicotinoids were the probable cause of mysterious bee deaths and declining numbers of beehives.
- F. On March 4, 2015, Representative Conyers reintroduced Congressional bill H.R. 1284, Saving America's Pollinators Act of 2015, to direct the EPA to suspend the registration of neonicotinoid pesticides until a determination can be made if they cause an unreasonable adverse effect on pollinators, and direct the Department of the Interior to regularly monitor the health and population status of native bees.
- G. On May 19, 2015, the White House Pollinator Health Task Force issued its report, focusing on increasing habitat for pollinators and called for further extensive research into all aspects of pollinator health.
- H. National retailers have recently taken steps to stop selling pesticides with neonicotinoids. Many other cities have adopted policies to end use of pesticides that include the chemical ingredient neonicotinoids in response to the declining population of bees and other insect pollinators. The City Council of the City of Sacramento desires to adopt a similar policy to ban the use of neonicotinoids on all City-owned property.
- I. Neonicotinoids are included in pesticide products that are readily available to the public and application of the products in home gardens has been found to occur at a rate that is 32 times higher than what has been approved for agricultural crops. Educating the public and promoting the discontinuance of pesticide products containing neonicotinoids will benefit bees and other insect pollinators and agricultural production within the city and the surrounding region.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to modify the City's Integrated Pest Management policies, landscape maintenance standard specifications, and procurement practices to eliminate the use of, and ban the purchase of, pesticides that contain neonicotinoids unless no alternative pesticide or pest control practice is available.

- Section 2. The City Manager or his designee is hereby authorized and directed to negotiate the terms of amending existing landscape maintenance contracts and construction contracts to ban the application of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids on all City-owned properties. The City Manager or his designee is authorized to execute such contract amendments and change orders to allow for substituting pesticides that do not contain neonicotinoids or alternative pest control practices, subject to the City Manager's contracting authority limitations set forth in the Sacramento City Code and the Department budgets if the contract costs will increase due to the substitution of other pesticide products or alternative pest control practices.
- Section 3. The Mayor and City Council supports the passage of the Saving America's Pollinators Act (H.R. 1284) and urges the Environmental Protection Agency to suspend the registration of neonicotinoids until it can complete its environmental assessments.
- Section 4. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to post information on the City's website to educate the public regarding the effects of pesticides that contain neonicotinoids on bee populations and promote the use of other pesticide products and/or alternative pest control practices, as well as planting bee-friendly plants. Residents should be advised to avoid spraying plants in their garden with insecticides, and never spray the flowers.
- Section 5. The Mayor and City Council support a national moratorium on the sale and use of pesticides that contain acetamiprid, imidacloprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, nitenpyram, nithiazine, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam and any other neonicotinoids and urges businesses to take immediate steps to ensure that no plants, seeds, or products containing such chemicals are purchased, sold, or used within the City of Sacramento.