

Resolution No. 003-01-COE

March 19, 2001

[City Golf Courses]

URGING THE RECREATION AND PARK DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC UTILITIES
COMMISSION TO DECREASE THE USE OF PESTICIDES ON CITY-OWNED GOLF COURSES.

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Plan of the City and County of San Francisco establishes the goal of eliminating chemical use in agriculture and landscaping and using sustainable practices that enhance natural biological systems throughout the City; and,

WHEREAS, in 1996, the City and County of San Francisco adopted an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Ordinance mandating that San Francisco minimize its pesticide use and reduce the negative impact of pesticides on people and the environment¹; and,

WHEREAS, on average, about 6.5 pounds of pesticides are applied per acre to U.S. golf courses each year, compared to 1.5 pounds per acre to agricultural lands²; and,

WHEREAS, chemical fungicides are often used on golf courses in order to maintain a perfectly manicured, unblemished turfgrass around the putting greens and synthetic fertilizers are often used on golf courses to maintain abundant, rapidly growing turfgrass stands³; and,

WHEREAS, fungicides and synthetic fertilizers can potentially contaminate groundwater and surface water and fungicides can expose golf course users to toxic and possibly hazardous residues; and,

¹ San Francisco Administrative Code, Chapter 39 San Francisco Integrated Pest Management Program

² Marquardt, Sandra. Golf's Green Handicap. Mothers & Others Green Guide. No.37. March 21, 1997.

³ Quarles, W. 2000. Microbial Fungicides and Fertilizers for Turfgrass. *IPM Practitioner* 22(8) p.8.

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco owns eight golf courses; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 6000 pounds of pesticides are used on San Francisco's City-owned golf courses each year; and,

WHEREAS, there are several examples of privately owned golf courses, including the North Shore Country Club near Chicago, that exhibit model IPM practices; and,

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco is a leader in IPM on City facilities and landscapes; and,

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Park Department has demonstrated leadership in IPM on City parks and on Sharp's Park Golf Course; and,

WHEREAS, the Public Utilities Commission has demonstrated leadership in IPM on its public lands and in its facilities; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Recreation and Park Department and the Public Utilities Commission to decrease the use of pesticides on City-owned golf courses; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission on the Environment urges the Recreation and Park Department and the Public Utilities Commission to work with the Department of the Environment to develop a plan, budget, and timeline for implementation for a model golf course IPM program, including recommendations on how any increase in IPM implementation costs would be addressed.

I hereby certify that this resolution was adopted by the Commission on the Environment at its regular meeting on March 19, 2001.

Sraddha Mehta
Commission Secretary

VOTE:

Ayes: Commissioners Hayes, Evans, Bingham, Shah, Chang and Bradford-Bell.

Noes: None.

Absent: Commissioner Werbe.