

## I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism to comply with the requirements of the County's NPDES Municipal Storm Sewer System Permit which requires a program for the management of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Additionally, the County strives to promote good environmental stewardship.

## II. CROSS REFERENCE

- FPM-ENV15 – Storm Water Management Policy.
- DEQ NPDES Permit 103004 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase 1 Permit
- Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer Management Plan (PHFMP)

## III. POLICY

This Policy provides the framework to minimize the use of pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer applied to the grounds of County owned facilities. It is the policy of Multnomah County FPM that the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers will be minimized and only used in a manner which prevents runoff and impact to water quality. This policy applies to all individuals responsible for authorizing the use of or physically applying pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

## IV. RATIONALE

This policy is being implemented to comply with requirements of the County's MS4 Permit (Permit No. 103004). Schedule 4(g)(ii) of the permit reads as follows:

*"Implement a management program to control and minimize the use and application of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers on permittee-owned properties"*.

The goal of the permit is to reduce the discharge of pollutants from the MS4 to the maximum extent practicable.

The environment will benefit from the minimization of the application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, particularly in regards to these chemicals discharging to surface waters via stormwater runoff and causing impacts to stream health. There may be a recognized cost saving by reducing the application of expensive pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers.

## V. DEFINITIONS

*Biological* – Use of biological agent to remove a pest plant (i.e. grazing) or the introduction of selectively pathogenic organisms to the area to retard or kill the target pest plant.

*Cultural* – Selective promotion of growth of desirable plants (i.e. over seeding).

*DEQ* – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

*Fertilizer* -- Substance used to make the soil more capable of plant growth.

*Herbicide* – An agent used to destroy or inhibit plant growth. (A subcategory of pesticides).

*MS4* – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

*NPDES* – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (A category of water quality permits required by the Federal Clean water Act and Oregon law).

*Pest* - A plant or animal detrimental to man.

*Pesticide* – An agent used to destroy pests.

*Physical/Mechanical* - Digging, pulling and cutting to remove a plant deemed a pest.

## VI. PROCEDURE

*It is the responsibility of the contractor to request and gain approval by the authorized County representative to use a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer (contractual requirement with the County). Failure to make this request can be considered a breach of the contract and could lead to the termination of the contract. It is the County's responsibility to retain the documented request and determine if all physical, mechanical, cultural and biological options have been exhausted and chemical methods are required.*

1. All uses of pesticide, herbicides and fertilizers will be approved in advance.  
Authorization for use will only occur after mechanical, cultural and biological methods have been reviewed and found to be ineffective.
2. The process can generally be described as follows:
  - a) The County will review the MSDS' for all pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers to be applied at any of its properties.
  - b) The contractor will contact the County to gain approval when it has been determined that the application of a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer is desired.
  - c) If the County authorizes the use of a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer, then the contractor may use the pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer and will provide written documentation, typically an e-mail, of the application of the pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer to the County.
  - d) Further details of the appropriate use and authorization of the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers is provided in the Fertilizer, Herbicide and Pesticide Management Plan.
3. Documentation of application of a pesticide, herbicide or fertilizer will be provided by the contractor and retained by the County.
4. The FPM Compliance Section will review all documentation regarding the application of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers annually to verify compliance with this policy.

## VII. EXHIBITS

- FPM-ENV2 Drinking Water Quality Testing
- FPM-ENV15 Stormwater Management Policy

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_