

Date of Hearing: April 24, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Esmeralda Soria, Chair

AB 2509 Kalra – As Amended April 4, 2024

SUBJECT: Integrated pest management: invasive species: definitions

SUMMARY: This bill defines integrated pest management (IMP) to mean an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Allows for the use of pesticides, as specified. Specifically, *this bill*:

- 1) Defines “IMP” to mean an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.
 - a) Exempts Healthy Schools Act of 2000 from this definition.
- 2) Defines “invasive species” to mean nonnative organisms that cause, or are likely to cause, economic or environmental harm. “Invasive species” does not include humans, domestic livestock, domestic or domesticated species, as specified.
- 3) Requires the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) to prioritize principles of IMP in all of its activities.
- 4) Makes technical and conforming changes.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Establishes ISCC to help coordinate a comprehensive effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species in the state and to advise state agencies how to facilitate coordinated, complementary, and cost-effective control or eradication of invasive species that have entered or are already established in the state, as specified. *FAC 7700*
- 2) Uses the term “invasive species” in a variety of contexts, including, among others, by establishing in state government ISCC to help coordinate a comprehensive effort to prevent the introduction of invasive species in the state. *FAC 7700*
- 3) Defines “IPM” to mean a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using nonchemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment, are used

only after careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds. *Government Code 14717 (d)*

- 4) Defines “IMP” in the Healthy Schools Act of 2000, to mean a pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as monitoring for pest presence and establishing treatment threshold levels, using nonchemical practices to make the habitat less conducive to pest development, improving sanitation, and employing mechanical and physical controls. Pesticides that pose the least possible hazard and are effective in a manner that minimizes risks to people, property, and the environment, are used only after careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines and treatment thresholds. This definition shall apply only to integrated pest management at school facilities and child day care facilities. *Food and Ag Code (FAC) 13181*
- 5) Defines “IMP” to mean an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques, such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates pesticides are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment. *FAC 12978.7 (a) (2)*

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown.

COMMENTS: The ISCC is an inter-agency council that helps to coordinate and ensure complementary, cost-efficient, environmentally sound and effective state activities regarding invasive species. The ISCC was established February 10, 2009. The goal of ISCC is to guide efforts to keep invasive species out of the state, find invasions before permanent establishment occurs and take steps to eradicate incipient populations of undesirable species. Additionally, the ISCC will promote a consistent approach to invasive species at the state level, enhance regional collaboration, and inter-state efforts. Education and cooperation are key components to an effective strategy. ISCC is co-chaired by the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency. Its members also include Secretaries from California Environmental Protection Agency, California State Transportation Agency, California Health and Human Services Agency, and Office of Emergency Services.

According to the author, while IPM can be used in all pest management contexts, it is especially applicable in ecologically sensitive situations like invasive species management. Because IPM stresses the use of the most effective, least harmful pest management tactics, it effectively addresses harmful invasive species while protecting non-target native species from unnecessary harm. This holds true even when pesticides are applied, as those pesticides will only be used when necessary and with safeguards that will minimize their effects on non-target organisms. IPM’s extensive usefulness has made it the subject of a number of legislative efforts. Since 2015, integrated pest management has been cited in at least 30 different bills, including impactful chaptered legislation like AB 1322 (Friedman, 2023) and AB 2062 (Maienschein, 2018).

Supporters state IPM is the recognized best practice for addressing invasive species. It prioritizes prevention measures and non-chemical tools as part of a holistic approach to safe and effective

management, while allowing for the judicious use of pesticides when needed. The term has been used in different ways by stakeholders at different times, so it is important to codify a standard definition. By using the definition developed by the University of California's IPM program, which is accepted by a range of stakeholders, the bill establishes a clear basis for decision making. However, the state of California does not currently have a codified, citable definition of IPM, leading to different bills utilizing different IPM definitions. This poses a problem that each diverging definition increases chances for inconsistent legislative policies confusing the regulatory process.

Opponents state that with their extensive experience involving policy and development of IPM, they assert that it is too premature and undeveloped to be codified as state law. Furthermore, neither the term Integrated Pest Management nor Invasive Species is adequately developed nor is current to conditions California is experiencing with global climate change. Opponent propose that amendments be made to this bill to make it more adequate to deal with the vast array of invasive species in many different sites in California.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

California Invasive Plant Council (Sponsor)
 California Association of Resource
 Conservation Districts
 California Environmental Voters
 California Native Grasslands Association
 California Native Plant Council –
 Marin Chapter
 Milo Baker Chapter
 Riverside San Bernardino Chapter
 San Diego Chapter
 Santa Cruz Chapter
 California State Parks Foundation
 Civicorps
 Claremont Canyon Conservancy
 Elkhorn Slough Foundation
 Friends of Ballona Wetlands
 Friends of Corte Madera Creek Watershed
 Friends of Five Creeks
 Green Foothills
 Irvine Ranch Conservancy

Laguna Canyon Foundation
 Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo
 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
 Nature Collective
 Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy
 Peninsula Open Space Trust
 Pesticide Action Network North America
 Preserve Calavera
 Resource Conservation District of
 Monterey County
 River Partners
 San Jose Conservation Corps
 Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
 Santa Clara River Conservancy
 Santa Clara Valley Habitat Agency
 Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority
 Strong Towns Oceanside
 Tubb Canyon Desert Conservancy
 Yolo County Resource Conservation District

Oppose

Beyond Pesticides
 Californians for Alternatives to Toxics
 Poison Free Malibu

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