

DRAFT Minutes

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY NATURE-BASED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS & INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (NBS & IPM) SUBCOMMITTEE

A subcommittee of the IPM Advisory Committee



June 17, 2025
10:30 AM

Held at the Hazardous Materials Programs office at
4585 Pacheco Blvd in Martinez and Supervisor Gioia's Office in
El Cerrito

Members Present: Tommy Fenster (Chair), Susanna Thompson, Jutta Burger, Lindsay Neuner

Members Absent: None

1. Convene and introductions

Meeting convened at 10:33 AM.

2. Public comment on items not on this agenda

None

3. DISCUSS land-management practices whose co-benefits are relevant to IPM and nature-based climate solutions and DETERMINE areas of focus for this subcommittee.

This item was introduced by the IPM Coordinator by giving an overview of the materials included in the agenda packet. He also provided a handout that gave a sampling of County-managed properties that may be suitable for potential pilot activities that include nature-based climate solutions (NBS) and IPM strategies. Subcommittee members made the following observations:

- The southern portion of the West County Detention Facility parcel would benefit from restoration planting, increasing tree canopy, planting a shaded fuel break and incorporating other strategies to protect against wildfires. Selling or leasing this segment of the parcel for food production or adjacent park operations was also discussed.*
- A question was raised regarding the existence of a policy or practices regarding the sourcing, generation, and utilization of green waste materials relevant to maintenance activities. Additional comments encouraged the inclusion of wildfire mitigation considerations when reviewing these programs.*
- A suggestion was made to consider inviting a representative from East Bay Regional Parks to present on their biochar program.*
- Many sites are suitable for grazing and are adjacent to other large parcels. Landowners who jointly procure targeted grazing services tend to reduce costs correlative to the reduction in the need to transport herds.*
- A subcommittee member noted that cattle grazed the Marsh Creek Detention Facility site until 2017. In 2018, the Marsh Fire started on the property near the road and spread to Morgan Territory. Because there was no grazing on that portion, there was a significant buildup of dried annual vegetation that caused the fire to spread quickly. There has been limited goat grazing near the range in the last few years.*
- Grazing goals for near the range should remove all residual dry matter. The goals for grazing the upland portions of the site could be more comprehensive based on site priorities.*

- *If any sites are selected for pilot projects, specific management goals should be prioritized.*
- *Funding sources such as carbon markets and the California Department of Food and Agriculture should be reviewed.*
- *Many sites may be suitable for small-scale pilots.*
- *The subcommittee discussed the benefits and concerns relating to compost application on rangelands along with current research in the Bay Area.*
- *Wildlife Conservation Board, and state Coastal Conservancy could potentially fund these types of efforts, but projects essentially need to be shovel-ready and permitted in order to move forward. Additional funding sources could include the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program.*
- *Next steps include prioritizing sites, developing goals, and determining strategic approaches.*
- *Many sites would benefit from greater community engagement and seeking areas where the goals of the County align with the goals of community-based organizations.*
- *Organic turf management programs should be considered, but some communities may require additional outreach to ensure a successful rollout.*
- *It will be important to articulate as many of the co-benefits of potential projects as proposals are developed. Also need to find sample photos of the desired condition.*
- *Additional considerations may include social equity, geographic location, placement on impacted communities, and fire-prone areas.*
- *What outreach opportunities would add the greatest value to the prioritized pilots.*

Public Speakers: None

4. REVIEW the grazing decision tree and ADVISE staff on possible revisions

This item was tabled due to insufficient time.

5. PLAN the dates and agenda items of future meetings

This item was tabled due to insufficient time.

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 PM.

Attachments:

[Handout of slides depicting a sampling of sites that may be suitable for NbS pilots](#)

—end of meeting minutes—