For the past decade there has been an awareness that pesticide applications around structures in urban environments contribute to the runoff of insecticides into urban waterways.

The primary goal of this project is the implementation and adoption of least toxic IPM strategies and alternative materials for urban / structural pest management to prevent or significantly reduce the risk of insecticide runoff. Our project area includes all urban neighborhoods in California.

We invite pest control companies into the program as volunteer team affiliates. To be an affiliate, the company must express a willingness to incorporate IPM strategies developed by this project in a portion of their service area. UCR will provide training to the affiliates, either by a one-day training session or an on-line training documentation, to help those companies train their in-house employees to incorporate the reduced-risk IPM strategies. Affiliates will be asked to document changes in their pest management practices, including reduced pesticide use. Team affiliates will be listed as project participants on our project website: http://urbanpest.ucr.edu/pesticideuse/

Also, we currently collaborate with Orange County UCCE (University of California Cooperative Extension) to focus on the Orange County’s Salt Creek Watershed (Laguna Niguel and Dana Point). Let us know if you work in either of the study sites by reviewing the addresses and maps of the two Salt Creek Watershed neighborhoods and filling out a short survey – all of which can be found at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/urbanwatermgmt/Urban_Agriculture_Production/CDPR_Projects/