

**California Department of Pesticide Regulation to Honor City's
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program
at IPM Innovator Awards Ceremony January 17, 2008**

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation has chosen the City of Santa Barbara as one of eight recipients for the 2007 Integrated Pest Management Innovator Award which acknowledges new approaches to help reduce or avoid the risks associated with some traditional chemical pesticides. The awards ceremony will be held at the California Environmental Protection Agency headquarters in Sacramento on Thursday, January 17.

The Santa Barbara community has a long history of working proactively to enhance and preserve the natural environment. The City of Santa Barbara, reflecting that community priority, has always prioritized policies and practices in support of those objectives.

Over a number of years, the Parks Division of the City Parks and Recreation Department successfully reduced overall pesticide use by 84% on approximately 1,400 acres of parklands. In January 2004, a formal Integrated Pest Management (IPM Strategy) was adopted by the Santa Barbara City Council, making a commitment to aggressively reducing the use of potentially harmful materials throughout the City, particularly in City parks. The strategy covers the diverse activities of the city - from the airport, to the golf course, to street maintenance, to creek protection, to the beaches, and to the nationally accredited AC Postel Memorial Rose Garden. Each setting has unique management and pest issues, and all are addressed under the IPM strategy. Since 2004, City facilities have reduced use of pesticides by 92%.

In April 2005, the Division further developed a Pesticide Hazard and Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model. The Zone System assigns a Green, Yellow, or Special Circumstance/Red Zone designation to each park, or portion of a park, based on the potential for exposure to humans and sensitive habitat. Today, 98% of City parkland is managed with "Green" (least harmful) materials.

The Parks Division works with a five-member citizen IPM Advisory Committee to implement IPM techniques including visitor education, trapping for rodents at high use parks, cultural modifications to manage clover and associated bee sting hazards around pools, mow strips

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and planting bed renovations to eliminate the need for herbicides, mulching, hot water/steam and green-flaming in high use parks, and trials of reduced-risk herbicides. The City is currently investigating the use of bat nesting boxes to reduce the need for mosquito abatement treatments.

The City of Santa Barbara exemplifies a large-scale, innovative IPM approach with measurable improvement, collaboration and community involvement as cornerstones. Staff actively shares information with other jurisdictions around the state. The City has served as an official sponsor of the Santa Barbara Organic Festival, provided outreach to citizens about pesticide use reduction, and has participated in events such as the California Parks and Recreation Society Annual Meeting in Sacramento, March 2007; the Urban Pesticide Committee in Oakland, July 2006; the 5Th National IPM Symposium in St. Louis, Missouri, April 2006; and the Association of Applied IPM Ecologists Annual Meeting: IPM In Practice Tour in February 2006.