



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: April 12, 2017

TO: City Council
Parks and Recreation Commission
Airport Commission

FROM: City IPM Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: IPM Advisory Committee Review of IPM Program in 2016 and 2016 Annual Report

The City of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is in its 14th year. The Committee agrees with the analysis presented in the 2016 annual report and supports the direction and programs described therein.

This letter is very similar to the ones we have previously provided, and that is a measure of how the IPM program has stabilized and continues to provide very low exposure to the City's residents on City properties. While the City continues to use some toxic materials in areas with low public exposure (near airport runways and parking medians), the emphasis continues to remain on eliminating exposure of the public and particularly children to toxic materials.

The increases in use of pesticides noted in the 2016 report are within the range of expected variability due to various environmental conditions, such as rain or lack thereof, and the need for public health measures, such as mosquito control. It is important to note that pesticide use has decreased substantially from its pre-strategy period before 2004, with the use of the most toxic materials decreasing by over 90% and green practices substantially evolved in a number of areas. Although there is sometimes apparent trending upwards, it is important to keep in mind the general overall substantial downward trend since before the start of the program.

The committee takes public health very seriously, and the use of more toxic materials for the control of mosquitoes (related to west nile virus) or other public health issues receive top priority. These challenges will always be present. We will continue to pursue Green materials, but also protect the public's health and resources as part of this committee's mission and goals.

With the associated need for increased labor related to least toxic methods, we support the efforts on the part of City staff to develop a well-coordinated volunteer program to ensure the long term effectiveness of the IPM program. The Advisory Committee is

committed to working with staff, elected officials, and members of the public to ensure a quality program that protects the City's assets while not compromising human and environmental health.