



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 28, 2007
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Santos M. Escobar Jr., Parks Manager
SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management 2006 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2006 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Santa Barbara adopted an IPM Strategy on January 26, 2004, to provide an ongoing specific program to further reduce the amount and toxicity of pesticides used on City property and, where feasible, to eliminate pesticide use in public areas using alternative methods. The City has been informally identifying and employing the least toxic alternatives for several years. The City's IPM Strategy formalized this effort, and requires an annual report on the program to be presented to the IPM Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council.

In addition to the areas described above, the 2006 Annual Report discusses the Pesticide Hazard And Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model adopted by the City Council in February 14, 2006, and improvements to City facilities to reduce pesticide use. The IPM Strategy required the development of a "Zone System" tied to the IPM Approved Materials List to limit pesticide use based on potential human exposure.

The PHAER Zone model assigns Green, Yellow, or Red/Special Circumstances Zone designations to sites, or portions of sites, based upon the potential for exposure by humans and sensitive habitat to hazardous pesticides and allows use of carefully screened materials by zone designation. For example, Green Zones are areas of high human exposure potential and only pesticides designated as "Green" which show very limited human and environmental impacts may be used. Yellow Zones are areas with moderate human or environmental hazard. Red/Special Circumstances Zones are areas where high hazard pesticides for highly challenging pest management problems are needed to control pests. Overall, the Zone Model provides for incremental and measurable expansion of risk-reduction efforts, along with communicating clearly to the public the general potential for pesticide exposure.

The following are covered within the IPM 2006 Annual Report (Attachment 1).

- Types of pest problems each department has encountered
- Types and quantities of pesticides used by each department
- Exemptions currently in place and granted during the past year
- Alternative pest management practices used
- Effectiveness of alternative practices implemented
- Proposed changes to pest management practices

2006 IPM Program Highlights

In the third year of the IPM program, because of abnormal rain patterns which brought an unpredictable wet spring, the City saw a 64% increase overall in pesticide use. The overall increase was predominately due to a large mosquito population that exploded at the Andree Clark Bird Refuge and Goleta Slough at the Airport, and necessary to protect public health from the potential West Nile Virus. At the same time, there was a 126% increase in the use of Green materials, the largest amount of alternative use since the inception the IPM program.

City-Wide

- Requests for exemptions decreased 55.5% from 27 to 12
- Use of Green materials increased by 126% as the City focused on alternative materials before using conventional materials
- Use of Yellow materials increased by 84% primarily due to mosquitos
- Use of Red materials increased by 217% due to rodent control, and fungus control
- Total pesticide units applied (Green, Yellow, and Red) increased by 64%

Parks Division

- Applied 1,420 cubic yards of mulch to abate weeds
- Use of Green materials rose 100% from 2005 to 2006
- Use of Yellow materials increased to abate arundo
- Use of Red material to combat root fungus on the Moreton Bay Fig Tree
- The Green Team was formed, augmenting the IPM efforts of other Parks staff
- A new truck and a tractor were purchased to support IPM practices

Public Works

- The use of Green materials rose 2,871% as alternative materials were used more frequently
- Use of Yellow materials rose 3,339%
- Both Green and Yellow materials use rose due to an increased response by Vector Control to a record high mosquito population
- Mechanical traps were continually used instead of pesticides to control rodents. Heat treatments were used to control termites in public facilities

Airport

- Use of Green herbicides to control weeds inside and outside of the airfield fence
- Increased hours devoted to alternative pest control efforts by 139%
- Converted management of 2 acres of native habitat restoration areas outside the airfield fence previously mapped as PHAER Yellow to PHAER Green
- Thirty percent increase in Yellow material use for mosquito control
- Use of Red material to control a significant rodent infestation

Golf

- Monitored nitrogen levels in turfgrass tissue to adjust fertility program to avoid summertime diseases
- Continued refining the consistent use of compost tea and effective microorganisms to combat disease pressure on golf greens
- Material usage increased 11%, with a 2.6% decrease of Red materials and a 272% increase in Yellow materials. The increase was due predominantly to an increase in funguses on the greens from an overly wet year

IPM Advisory Committee Recommendation

At a special meeting held February 13, 2007, the IPM Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the 2006 IPM Annual Report, recommended that the report be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council for review and approval (Attachment 2).

Staff recommends that the Commission accept the IPM 2006 Annual Report and recommend approval to City Council.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. IPM 2006 Annual Report
2. IPM Advisory Committee Comments & Recommendations

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