



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 26, 2008
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management 2007 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2007 Annual Report and recommend that the report be forwarded to City Council.

DISCUSSION:

Background

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 had been informally identifying and employing the least toxic alternatives since the 1990s. The City's IPM Strategy formalized this effort, and requires an annual program report to be presented to the IPM Advisory Committee, Park and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council.

In addition to reviewing annual program implementation, the 2007 Report discusses the Pesticide Hazard And Exposure Reduction (PHAER) Zone Model adopted by the City Council on 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 2007 IPM Annual Report (Attachment 1) addresses the following:

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

2007 IPM Program Highlights

In the fourth year of the IPM program, because of a record dry year, there was a 51% overall decrease in pesticide use. This included an 87% decrease in Red material. The use of yellow materials also decreased 39% and the use of Green Materials decreased 92%.

City-wide

- Units of pesticides applied decreased by 51% from 2006 to 2007.
- Use of Green materials decreased by 92%.
- Use of Yellow materials decreased by 39%.
- Use of Red materials decreased by 87%.
- Total pesticide units applied (Green, Yellow, and Red) increased by 19% due predominantly to Departments utilizing materials that are applied in smaller quantities, but with more frequency.

Parks Division

- Applied over 2,000 cubic yards of mulch to abate weeds.
- Use of Green materials decreased by 56%.
- Use of Yellow materials decreased by 39%.
- No use of Red materials.
- To reduce weed spread, 5,687 lineal feet of curbing was installed in parks.

Public Works

- Units of pesticides applied decreased by 99% from 2006 to 2007.
- Both Green and Yellow materials decreased by 99%.
- No Red materials were used.
- Mechanical traps were used instead of pesticides to control rodents.
- Heat treatments were used to control termites in public facilities.

Airport

- Units of pesticides applied decreased by 39% from 2006 to 2007.
- Applications of mosquito control products decreased by 42% due to low rainfall.
- Increased hours devoted to alternative pest control efforts for weed control.
- During construction of runway safety area, additional airfield light lanes were paved. This change is expected to reduce future herbicide applications.

Golf

- Units of pesticides applied decreased by 56% from 2006 to 2007.
- Material usage decreased 56%, with a 93% reduction of Red materials and a 17% increase in Yellow materials.
- Consistently used compost teas and effective microorganisms to combat disease pressure on golf greens.

Waterfront Department

- Units of pesticides applied decreased by 40% from 2006 to 2007.
- The only pesticide applied at the Waterfront was Ditrac (a Yellow material) for rat control. Ditrac use decreased by 40% from 2006 to 2007.

IPM Advisory Committee Recommendation

At a special meeting held February 27, 2008, the IPM Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the 2007 IPM Annual Report and recommended that the report be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council for review and approval. A memo from Eric Cardenas, Chair of the Committee is attached (Attachment 2.).

ATTACHMENTS: 1. IPM 2007 Annual Report
2. Memo from IPM Advisory Committee

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