



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** March 17, 2008

**TO:** City Council  
Park and Recreation Commission  
Airport Commission

**FROM:** City IPM Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** Annual IPM Review

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**Public Advisory Committee's Review of IPM Program for 2007**

Now in its fourth year, the City of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program continues to evolve. The Public Advisory Committee has worked closely with city staff in reviewing overall practices, pest control materials, exemption requests, and proposed changes to the program. We believe the program has been a success, and thank staff for their work not only in implementing the program, but in promoting the program as a whole.

**Highlights:**

The City should be extremely proud of some major accomplishments under the program in 2007. These include:

- **Decrease in Total Pesticide Units Applied-** Due in part to a relatively dry year, decreases in all pesticide categories, including Green materials, were noticed citywide by a total of 51%
- **Red Materials-** No Red materials were used by the Parks Dept. or the Public Works Dept. in 2007, moving us towards the City's goal of reduction and elimination of the most toxic pesticides.
- **Non-Pesticide Techniques Used-** City depts. implemented various non-pesticide control techniques, including manual rodent trapping on State St and Coast Village Rd., catch and release techniques for bees (Public Works), heat treatment for termite control, and compost tea at the Golf Course.
- **Addition of Committee Member-** Corey Wells has joined the IPM Advisory Committee as a public representative. Mr. Wells is employed at Lotusland and has extensive experience managing pests in a least toxic manner.
- **Regional IPM outreach to other jurisdictions-** Starting in 2007, the city joined with Santa Barbara County representatives, local school districts, and other cities within the county to implement more coordinated pesticide reduction strategies. This newly formed collaboration will continue to meet in 2008, and looks forward to successes that will reduce pesticide use region-wide.

The City's IPM program has resulted in significant reductions of toxic pesticides across all city departments. While some departments have had greater difficulty in implementing less toxic practices than others on a consistent basis, the Committee feels that staff is committed to this program and its objectives, continually trying to improve. For this, staff should be commended.

Staff and the Advisory Committee have started off the new year with immediate success. First, the City of Santa Barbara was honored by the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) with an IPM Innovators Award at a ceremony held in Sacramento on Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, becoming only the fifth city in the state to receive this distinction. Secondly, Corey Welles has joined the IPM Committee in the place of Brenton Kelly. Mr. Welles attended his first meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, and in addition to serving on the Committee, currently works at Lotusland and is well versed in least toxic pest management practices. Finally, Eric Cárdenas, Oscar Carmona, Greg Chittick, and Kristen LaBonte continue to enthusiastically serve on the Committee and look forward to another year of improving the IPM program.

**Areas in Need of Improvement:**

Despite our strong start in 2008, it is important to acknowledge areas where additional efforts are needed to ensure the program's continued success. These include:

- **Increased efforts placed on volunteer coordination and implementation-** Staff has begun to utilize volunteers, and should do this to a greater degree in the future. Increased volunteer efforts, coupled with continued resources to the City's Green Team, will greatly benefit ongoing IPM efforts.
- **Increased research and implementation of alternatives-** Research into alternatives, and pilot projects for alternative materials, should be a continuing effort. While city staff has attempted to utilize less toxic materials in various pilot projects throughout the city, often with mixed results, research must continue as we strive to reduce overall toxicity of materials used.
- **Moreton Bay Fig Tree-** As noted in past reports, the health of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree is in continuous decline. While the IPM committee has granted exemptions in order to apply conventional fungicides to the root system, a more holistic approach is needed. The addition of Corey Welles to the committee could help City efforts in this regard.
- **Non-Approved Applications-** Although the amounts used were minimal, two departments applied pesticides without receiving appropriate exemptions. City staff and the Advisory Committee have worked with Public Works and the Airport to ensure this does not occur again.

The Advisory Committee looks forward 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 or environmental health.