



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 25, 2009
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management 2008 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2008 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 2008 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 2008 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

2008 IPM Program Highlights

In the 5th year of the IPM program, there was a 31% overall decrease in pesticide use. This included a decrease in the use of Red materials from 32 units to 25 units. The use of yellow materials also decreased from 1,571 units to 868 units. The use of Green Materials increased from 43 units to 239 units.

City-wide

- The units of pesticides applied decreased from 1,646 to 1,132.
- Units of Green materials increased from 43 to 239.
- Units of Yellow materials decreased from 1,571 to 868.
- Units of Red materials decreased from 32 to 25.
- The number of times pesticides were applied (including Green, Yellow, and Red materials) decreased from 269 in 2007 to 160 in 2008.
- City-wide, 14 infractions¹ of the IPM Strategy were recorded.

¹An infraction is the application of a restricted material without an exemption. An exemption is required to use materials that are not on the Approved Materials List or to use higher risk materials in areas designated as lower risk (i.e. using a Red material in a Yellow area or a Yellow material in a Green area).

Airport

- Due to an overall average rain season in 2008, applications of Altosid XR, an extended release, yellow mosquito control product, decreased by from 1,153 units in 2007 to 621 units in 2008. A pilot project using a larger percentage of green materials to control mosquitoes was initiated in the fall of 2008.
- Applications of Ditrac, a Yellow material, for rodent control were dramatically reduced from 197 units in 2007 to 33 units in 2008.
- 15,834 labor hours were spent performing alternative efforts for weed control, etc.

- Applications of the Yellow materials Roundup Pro and Surflan used to control weeds decreased from 140 units in 2007 to 137 units in 2008.
- An exemption for Termidor SC was granted for the treatment of an infestation of subterranean termites in one Airport building.
- The Airport had one infraction of the IPM Strategy. Contractors working for the Airport inadvertently applied .75 gallons of QuickPro herbicide, a Red material, in an Airport Yellow zone without an exemption. This was the only application of a special circumstance material at the Airport in 2008.

Creeks

- No pesticides were applied in 2008.
- Application of 102 yards of mulch.

Golf

- The units of pesticides applied increased from 12 to 29.
- Units of Yellow materials decreased from 11 to 5.
- Units of Red materials increased significantly from 1 to 24.
- The golf course continues to brew microorganisms and compost tea for the greens.
- Golf had 2 infractions of the IPM Strategy, applying an herbicide and a fungicide without the required exemption.

Parks Division

- The units of pesticides applied increased from 17 to 78.
- Units of Green materials increased from 12 to 40.
- Units of Yellow materials increased from 6 to 38.
- No Red materials were used in 2008.
- 3,587 lineal feet of curbing installed in parks to reduce weed spread.
- Application of 2,125 yards of mulch.

Public Works

- The units of pesticides applied increased from 2 to 28.
- Units of Green materials increased from .5 to 20.
- Units of Yellow materials increased from 1 to 8.
- Units of Red materials increased from 0 in 2007 to .221 in 2008.
- Public Works had 11 infractions of the IPM strategy. Eleven pesticides were applied without the required exemptions. These applications totaled 8 units and most were due to contractor use for structural pest control, and many were applied in bait stations.

Waterfront Department

- No pesticides were applied in 2008.

IPM Advisory Committee Recommendation

At a special meeting held March 9, 2009, the IPM Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the 2008 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 Greg Chittick, Vice-Chair on behalf of the IPM Advisory Committee is attached (Attachment 2).

ATTACHMENTS: 1. IPM 2008 Annual Report
2. Memo from IPM Advisory Committee

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