



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: March 16, 2012

TO: City Council
Parks and Recreation Commission
Airport Commission

FROM: City IPM Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: IPM Advisory Committee Review of IPM Program in 2011 and 2011 Annual Report

The City of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program continues to grow and evolve. The Committee feels strongly that the program has been successful and stands as one of the greatest environmental achievements in the City's history.

The Committee agrees with the analysis presented in the 2011 annual report and supports the direction and programs described therein. It is important to note that, although pesticide use levels vary from year to year based on a number of factors, the committee has confidence in the city staff which continues to exemplify goodwill and integrity in regards to implementing the program, developing new ideas and initiatives and working collaboratively with the committee and the community. We commend them for their dedication across all departments.

A number of additional points in regards to the IPM program are listed below.

- A number of successes have been achieved and demonstration through such practices as rodent trapping, heat treatment of termites, green mosquito control and green control of plant pests. Many green practices are only successful with the benefits of detail oriented, concentrated efforts, which have been exemplified by many efforts in the IPM program.
- There have been a number of successes associated with green control of mosquitoes. A large percentage of the City's pesticide use is related to mosquito control. Mosquito control is an important issue as it has direct impacts on public health issues. The IPM committee is committed to protecting human health as well as reducing pesticide use. This is an area where public health is of great concern; therefore effectiveness is the highest priority.

With budgetary challenges, pressure on staff and the committee will continue in 2012 to accept a decrease in maintenance service levels at many parks. The budgetary challenges are mostly realized in the area of weed abatement which leads to higher than normal level of weeds that are aesthetically displeasing to a portion of the public.

With the associated need for labor related to least toxic methods, we continue to believe that developing a well coordinated volunteer program will help the long term effectiveness of the IPM program. The Parks Division has expanded the number of volunteer work days by reaching out to community groups such as Santa Barbara Beautiful. Parks Division staff reports that about 6-7 work days per year are currently being undertaken with up to 100 people at each workday.

We also want to thank Oscar Carmona (8 years) and Cory Wells (3 years), two members of the IPM committee who completed their service this year, for their years of service and extensive, hands-on expertise. They will be missed.

The Advisory Committee will continue to work 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.