



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 27, 2016

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Integrated Pest Management 2015 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission accept the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2015 Annual Report and forward the report 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, Parks and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council.

In addition to reviewing annual program implementation, the 2015 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 IPM 2015 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

IPM 2015 Program Highlights

The table below provides a summary of total pesticide use (gallons and pounds) for 2015, including any increase or decrease in use from 2014. City-wide pesticide use overall decreased 52% in 2015, primarily due to another low water year that has resulted in fewer pests. The use of Green materials decreased 52% from 867 units to 418.43 units and the use of Yellow materials decreased 57% from 1,896.5 units to 807.28 units. Red materials increased 1,216% from 8.51 units in 2014 to 112 units in 2015. This was due to the one-time application of 96 pounds of Zythor insecticide by the Airport Department for termite control. Similar to prior years, the Golf Division applied five different “Red” fungicides to control fungus on the greens.

At the Department level, the Airport Department reduced use of pesticides overall by 50%. This is predominantly due to low rainfall leading to lower mosquito management. In the Parks and Recreation Department, the Golf Division increased its pesticide use by 35% from 2014, while the Parks Division decreased its pesticide use by 9%. The Public Works Department decreased use of pesticides by 59% from 2014.

Department / Division	Material Use				Change from 2014
	Green	Yellow	Red	Total	
Airport Department	172.5	732.65	96	1001.2	-50%
Parks & Recreation, Golf Division	0.93	1.125	16	18.055	35%
Parks & Recreation, Parks Division	0	11.5	0	11.5	-9%
Public Works Department	245	62	0	307	-59%
City-wide Total	418.43	807.28	112	1337.7	-52%
Change from 2014	-52%	-57%	1,216%	-52%	

Plans for 2016

The Parks and Recreation Department will work with IPM Consultant Phil Boise to comprehensively review the IPM strategy and PHAER Zone. Also, staff from all departments will continue to look for and test any new promising materials that are developed to assist Integrated Pest Management.

IPM Advisory Committee Recommendation

At a special meeting held April 6, 2016, the IPM Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the IPM 2015 Annual Report and recommended that the report be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission, Airport Commission, and City Council for review and approval. A memo from Greg Chittick, Chair, on behalf of the IPM Advisory Committee is attached (Attachment 2).

Airport Commission Recommendation

On April 20, 2016, the Airport Commission reviewed and approved the IPM 2015 Annual Report.

City Council Meeting

The report is scheduled on the May 24, 2016 City Council Agenda for review and approval.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. IPM 2015 Annual Report
2. Memo from IPM Advisory Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Santos M. Escobar Jr., Parks Manager

APPROVED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director