



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** April 26, 2017

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Pest Management 2016 Annual Report

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission review and approve the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) 2016 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 2016 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 2016 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 2016 Program Highlights

The table below provides a summary of total Citywide pesticide use (pesticides are reported in either pounds or gallons depending on whether they are dry or liquid) for 2016, including any increase or decrease in use from 2015. Use increased for Green and Red material in gallons, up 51% and 16% respectively, but decreased for yellow material by 3%. All material applied in pounds increased, up 22% overall: 30% for Green material, 4% for Yellow, and 144% for Red. The spike in Red material is due to an increase in use of insecticides at the Airport for mosquito, termites and gopher control, and at the Golf course due to a fungus outbreak.

#### 2016 Pesticide Use Summary – All City Departments

	Material Use			
	Green	Yellow	Red	Total
<b>Gallons</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>179.33</b>	<b>11.89</b>	<b>192.63</b>
<b>Pounds</b>	<b>541.65</b>	<b>598.45</b>	<b>248.56</b>	<b>1,388.66</b>
<b>Change in Gallons from 2015</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>
<b>Change in Pounds from 2015</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>144%</b>	<b>22%</b>

#### Airport Department

The Airport Department increased use of pesticides overall, including 60% for material applied in gallons and 21% for material applied in pounds. The Airport Department treated one building for termites using Zythor and applied Weevil-cide, an Aluminum Phosphide based fumigant, to control gophers on the airfield. The Mosquito and Vector Management District applied 566.45 lbs. of Altosid and 282.91 lbs. of Vectobac G. on the Airport's behalf to control mosquito sources and prevent West Nile Virus and other disease transmission. During a 2016 FAA inspection, vegetation was noted as blocking airfield lights and signs. The Airport applied 114.59 gallons of Roundup Promax and 62 gallons of Surflan A.S., both yellow materials, to control weeds on the runway, in addition to manual weed control.

#### Parks and Recreation Department

The Golf Division increased its pesticide use by 35% from 2015, the majority of which was 40 pounds of Fore (fungicide) in one application to treat a rapid blight outbreak on the greens

in October 2016. A number of smaller spot fungicide treatments were used on greens throughout the year to maintain the outbreak. Half a gallon of Acelepryn was used to control grubs.

The Parks Division decreased its pesticide use by 9%. The Parks Division used 30 pounds of Sluggo, Iron Phosphate, at Alice Keck Park Memorial Gardens and the Mission Rose Garden to combat slugs and snails.

The Creeks Division applied 1.3 gallons (1:16 dilution rate), throughout 9 applications, of the herbicide Polaris at Arundo treatment sites along Arroyo Burro Creek.

#### Public Works Department

The Public Works Department decreased use of pesticides by 59% from 2015. Vectobac G was applied 38 times over the course of the year for the treatment of mosquitos. The majority of the pesticide was applied at the Andrée Clark Bird Refuge, with additional sites including the culvert at Dwight Murphy Field/Por La Mar; ditch at 3015 Calle Noguera; creek, ditches and drains at Chase Palm Park; channel at Municipal Tennis Courts on Old Coast Highway; bioswale at the Honda Valley Preserve; and the Lighthouse Creek at La Mesa Park.

#### Alternative Practices

Tracked hours for City-wide alternative practices increased 28% from 7,141 hours in 2015 to 9,148 hours in 2016. Of the total tracked hours for 2016, 72% of the time was spent maintaining weeds through mulching, hand weeding, weed whipping and other practices.

#### **Plans for 2017**

The Parks and Recreation Department will continue to administer and review the IPM strategy and PHAER Zone. Also, staff from all departments will continue to identify and test promising new materials that assist with Integrated Pest Management strategies.

#### **IPM Advisory Committee Recommendation**

At a special meeting held April 10, 2017, the IPM Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the IPM 2016 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 19, 2016, the Airport Commission reviewed and approved the IPM 2016 Annual Report.

**City Council Meeting**

The report is scheduled on the May 16, 2017 City Council Agenda for review and approval.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. IPM 2016 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