



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

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** March 24, 2019

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

**FROM:** City IPM Advisory Committee

**SUBJECT:** IPM Advisory Committee Review of IPM Program in 2018 and 2018 Annual Report

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The City of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is in its 16<sup>th</sup> year. The Committee agrees with the analysis presented in the 2018 annual report and supports the direction and programs described therein. The committee wants to express its appreciation for the work done by staff and their continued forward-thinking approach to the challenges of pest management.

We are pleased to report that this letter is very similar to the ones we have previously provided, and that is a measure of how the IPM program has stabilized and continues to provide very low exposure to the City's residents on City properties. While the City continues to use some toxic materials in areas with low public exposure (near airport runways and parking medians), the emphasis continues to remain on eliminating exposure of the public and particularly children to toxic materials.

The use of pesticides noted in the 2018 report are within the range of expected variability due to various environmental conditions, such as rain or lack thereof, and the need for public health measures, such as mosquito control. It is important to note that pesticide use has decreased substantially from its pre-strategy period before 2004, with the use of the most toxic materials decreasing by over 90% and green practices substantially evolved in a number of areas. Although there is sometimes apparent trending upwards, it is important to keep in mind the general overall substantial downward trend since before the start of the program.

The committee takes public health very seriously, and the use of more toxic materials for the control of mosquitoes (related to west Nile virus) or other public health and safety issues (runway safety at airport) receive top priority. These challenges will always be present. We will continue to pursue Green materials, but also protect the public's health and resources as part of this committee's mission and goals.

With the associated need for increased labor related to least toxic methods, we support the efforts on the part of City staff to develop a well-coordinated volunteer program to ensure the long term effectiveness of the IPM program, and ongoing efforts to find better green materials as alternative to more toxic materials. With the potential changes in classification for some common herbicides, such as RoundUp, the need for volunteers and the education of the public on acceptable aesthetics of parks is of utmost importance.

The Advisory Committee is committed 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 and environmental health.