



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 28, 2020
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Administration Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Westmont College Acorn Woodpecker Study

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Commission receive a presentation from Professor Amanda Sparkman and students Seth Wilmoth and Kendra Dayton, of Westmont College, of the results of their 2020 summer research of the changes in behavior and social organization in acorn woodpeckers on an urban-wild gradient.

DISCUSSION:

In May 2020, Professor Amanda M. Sparkman of the Biology Department at Westmont College requested access to the Douglas Family Preserve for a student summer research project. The purpose of the project was to research the changes in behavior and social organization in acorn woodpeckers on an urban-wild gradient. The study compared woodpecker family groups living in high versus low urban light areas. Family groups of woodpeckers reside in the park as well as other park settings along the Santa Barbara south coast.

The results of the research are outlined in the attached abstract and poster.

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