



City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department

Memorandum

DATE: April 27, 2016

TO: City Council
Parks and Recreation Commission
Airport Commission

FROM: City IPM Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: IPM Advisory Committee Review of IPM Program in 2015 and 2015 Annual Report

The City of Santa Barbara's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program is in its 13th year. The Committee agrees with the analysis presented in the 2015 annual report and supports the direction and programs described therein.

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. Some areas have been reclassified as yellow, thereby allowing more toxic material use (such as at the Airport), but the emphasis continues to remain on eliminating exposure of the public, and these areas that have been reclassified have very little to no public exposure.

It is also important to note that, even though there is variability between years, 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 developed in a number of areas. Some use of toxic pesticides continues, however, due to a number of challenges, including control of fungus on golf greens, control of rodents on airport runways, mosquito control during critical periods, and control of invasive weeds. 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 issues 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 continue to believe that a well coordinated volunteer program helps the long term effectiveness of the IPM program. The Parks Department has implemented a number of volunteer days and volunteer activities appear to be at a peak for the management to handle. 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.