

MARIN COUNTY PARKS

Preservation • Recreation

**MARIN COUNTY
PARKS**
PRESERVATION • RECREATION



• OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
• REGIONAL PARKS & PATHWAYS
• COMMUNITY PARKS
• LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Pat O'Brien
INTERIM DIRECTOR AND
GENERAL MANAGER

Marin County Civic Center
3501 Civic Center Drive
Suite 260
San Rafael, CA 94903
415 473 6387 T
415 473 3795 F
415 473 2495 TTY
www.marincounyparks.org

April 12, 2016

Board of Supervisors
Marin County Parks
Marin County Civic Center
San Rafael, California 94903

ITEM WAS HEARD
MARIN COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS

April 12, 2016

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP REPORT FROM IPM ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: Receive update and provide policy direction.

OVERVIEW:

On March 1, your board received a presentation from the County's Integrated Pest Management Coordinator on the 2015 Annual Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Report. In response to community feedback and your Board's policy direction, we are providing a follow-up report on the following items:

- 1) Confirm policy direction of no use of glyphosate-based herbicides in park facilities and enter into a landscape maintenance contract amendment to test non-herbicide approaches in non-pedestrian traffic medians;
- 2) Provide a brief update on the Open Space District's Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan and future schedule for consideration;
- 3) Consider funding, as part of the FY 2016-17 budget, an educational outreach initiative focused on reducing pesticide use throughout the County.

We are proposing a \$100,000 contract amendment to test an approach to traffic median maintenance without the use of glyphosate based herbicides. During the course of the IPM annual report, it was mentioned that staff was in discussions with Gardeners Guild Inc., a landscape maintenance contractor for the County of Marin, to consider an amendment to their current scope of contract work. The amendment was to perform the related landscape maintenance in non-pedestrian traffic medians and roadside landscapes without the use of conventional herbicides, specifically glyphosate based products. At that time, your board asked that staff return to provide you with an update on the feasibility and budget impacts of this contract amendment.

Gardener's Guild Inc. currently maintains 26 sites under a contract managed by Marin County Parks at a cost of \$244,541. Of the 27 sites, 8 are traffic medians or

roadsides with ornamental landscapes. These sites include the traffic medians along a two mile stretch of Sir Francis Drake Boulevard between College Avenue and Eliseo Drive, the center medians on Bon Air Road from Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to the Corte Madera Creek Bridge, the traffic medians around the Marin County Civic Center, the medians on Alameda Del Prado, the roadside landscape frontage along Atherton Drive, two medians along North San Pedro Road, and the medians on Meriam Drive in the Northridge Community of Santa Venetia.

Current maintenance efforts on traffic medians include the use of conventional herbicides in compliance with the County's IPM policy and ordinance in conjunction with other non-chemical methods of weed management such as hand weeding, mulching, and flaming. The objectives of the landscape maintenance activities are primarily threefold. The first objective is to maintain traffic and pedestrian safety, second to protect the workers working within these areas and third, to maintain a healthy landscape.

This proposed contract amendment, if authorized, will perform these maintenance activities without the use of conventional herbicides, focusing efforts on mechanical, non-chemical methods with the strategic use of organic pesticides as available under the County IPM program. There will be no glyphosate used in the management of weeds under this pilot program.

The contractor will manage roadway lane closures using California Department of Transportation standards and will be conducted primarily during off peak traffic flow periods, for example, Saturdays from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Even during off-peak hours, it is expected that traffic congestion will result from the lane closures, particularly on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Bon Air Road. Some sites will require flagging, cones, and signs while not closing a lane, and other sites will require a full lane closure. The proximity and rate of speed of the adjacent traffic flow, the available work space, the type of maintenance activities being performed will all be key variables in determining the type of traffic control measures put in place.

Staff will monitor the hours spent, traffic impacts, any organic herbicidal use, unanticipated consequences that may arise, and the results achieved during the course of this pilot period. Staff will report back to your board in approximately one year.

Open Space Vegetation and Biodiversity Management to be considered in August.

In addition to this pilot program, at your March 1 Board meeting there was discussion surrounding the use of herbicides on Open Space District lands. Staff, in conjunction with your board and the Parks and Open Space Commission, has developed a Vegetation and Biodiversity Management Plan which includes various strategies and tools to address increased fire fuel loads and the spread of invasive weeds. This document has been completed and gone through environmental review. Currently the department is preparing responses to the comments received and anticipates bringing the final document to your board for consideration of adoption this August.

Consider funding an educational outreach initiative focused on reducing pesticide use throughout the County.

Your Board has expressed interest in developing an educational outreach initiative to address the broader spectrum of pesticide use throughout Marin County. While this issue is larger than Marin County Parks, we would like to offer our support and partnership to your Board and other County agencies to help further reduce pesticide use.

FISCAL IMPACT:

As listed below, the estimated increase in costs to test non-herbicide approaches in non-pedestrian traffic medians is approximately \$100,000. The non-pedestrian median sites will increase in value as follows on an annual basis:

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>\$ Increase</u>	<u>% Increase</u>
• Rush Creek	Rush Creek LLMD	\$ 16,548	77%
• SV Promenade	CSA 18	\$ 4,259	13%
• Meriam Drive	CSA 9	\$ 7,017	
• North San Pedro	CSA 9	\$ 2,332	
	CSA 9 Subtotal	\$ 9,349	103%
• SFD	CSA 17	\$ 45,352	
• Bon Air	CSA 17	\$ 7,262	
	CSA 17 Subtotal	\$ 52,614	72%
• Alameda Del Prado	CSA 1	\$ 6,831	95%
• Civic Center Drive	General Fund	\$ 10,524	24%
Non-Pedestrian Median Total		\$100,125	57%

The existing contract for all 26 sites, including a 10 percent contingency and inclusive of these non-pedestrian traffic medians, is \$244,541. Including a three percent CPI increase in the revised contract, as well as the recommended scope of service adjustments, the new contract for the increased IPM work would total \$359,473 for fiscal year 2016-17. Staff will review the results of these new approaches and return to your Board to report on the effectiveness and the longer-term cost impacts. Over the long-term, staff will consider renovation of landscape medians to incorporate design elements that are easier to maintain without the use of chemical herbicides.

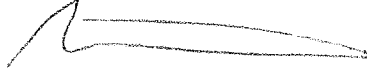
In addition, we will work with the County Administrator to scope a public outreach program to reduce pesticide use in our community. An initial estimate for the initiative is approximately \$100,000.

Reviewed by:

- [] Dept. of Finance [X] N/A
- [] County Counsel [X] N/A
- [] Human Resources [X] N/A

The principal author of this board letter is Chris Chamberlain, Marin County Parks Superintendent and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the County of Marin.

Respectfully submitted,



Max Korten
Acting Assistant Director