

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 21, 2018 3:40 AM

**To:** [cityclerk@longbeach.gov](mailto:cityclerk@longbeach.gov)

**Cc:** [district1@longbeach.gov](mailto:district1@longbeach.gov); [district2@longbeach.gov](mailto:district2@longbeach.gov); [District3@longbeach.gov](mailto:District3@longbeach.gov); [District4@longbeach.gov](mailto:District4@longbeach.gov); [District6@longbeach.gov](mailto:District6@longbeach.gov); [District7@longbeach.gov](mailto:District7@longbeach.gov); [District8@longbeach.gov](mailto:District8@longbeach.gov); [District9@LongBeach.gov](mailto:District9@LongBeach.gov)

**Subject:** City Council Agenda Item 26, dated 6/21/18 - file 18-0740 Request this e-mail get entered to City Council Agenda Records.

Hello All,

I support the removal of Glyphosate from our city and have worked closely with Marie Knight and her staff, prior to her leaving the city toward developing a graduated process to eliminate it from LBC parks medians and landscape the city owns. I would like to thank Councilmembers Al Austin, Daryl Supernaw and Roberto Uranga to for bringing this item forward on August 15<sup>th</sup> for city Council Agenda Item 26, file # 18-0740, for the city meeting dated 8/21/18. I would also like to thank the incoming PRM director Geraldo Mouet and his staff for his recommendation.

New System for approved by California EPA to deal with prevention of pests was in the final stages of being approved by past Parks director, but not implement because the Director left the city:

The city has approved watering our parks at 100% of what our parks require to sustain our city parks. The public was told by the city in numerous community meetings, the reason why our glyphosate was being used around trees was because there was a water shortage and the city wanted to remove or kill the surrounding grass around the trees in order to get the maximum volume of water to tree roots. 2 years ago, I provided the city with a 3,000 + residents demand for the city to water our parks to 100% of what they need. With over 70% of the parks and trees in District 5, in theory based on that logic, there should no longer be a need to use roundup in the city. **While the known cancer determination referenced in Mounet's memo in proposition 65, includes the WHO, & California state, left out and discussed with Marie, but left out of the memo is the UN. numerous other countries as well as numerous CA cities, school & universities, government agencies in the state and in the country that have outright banned it.**

As the e-mail below shows, the PRM saw a demonstration and discussion ( invited them to) and were shown equipment that could be purchased inexpensively, and can perform that weed elimination in an environmentally friendly and safe manner at a relatively low cost. The PRM was also introduced to an EPA approved program call IPM (Integrated Pest Management).

As can be seen from the email attachment below, former Director Marie Knight was on a path to remove round up (glyphosate) from all city parks and in doing so adopting a California state EPA IPM process). As can be discerned from the e-mail chain below, Marie Knight had decided she wanted to go forward with removing Glyphosate from LBC and implement the IPM system for the PRM department, but would not move forward because she was leaving the city and wanted the incoming director to decide for himself what he would like to do. I have been told Marie Knight left meticulous notes and confident that was handed over to the current parks director.

I have highlighted, in red font in the e-mail immediately below, the definition of IPM and also included EPA links to its' government website giving Elected officials an opportunity to review it if they are interested. It should be noted that implement IPM cost no money for the city and has assisted

department with diminishing budgets to reduce their maintenance costs. Many current users of this system are reporting they are reducing maintenance costs by adopting this system.

Warmest Regards,

Raman Vasishth  
LB City Resident

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 20, 2018 8:32 PM

**To:** [Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov); [valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov](mailto:valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov); 'Geraldo.Mouet@LongBeach.gov'

**Subject:** limination of Glyphosate Adoption of IPM info via Marie.

Hello Geraldo & Hurley,

Valarie asked me to forward the following information below based on a variety of communication we've had. Here is some of the documentation you requested. Although I see the 8/17/18 Memo, per the city's request, I will also forward these note to the city clerk to deal for the item 26 in tomorrow's City Council meeting. These were both issues Marie was supporting and intending to implement before she left. In addition to the alternative to Glyphosate we discussed a system called Integrated Pest Management (IPM) that is used as a tool for measuring and reducing total system costs and worked in finding means to financially justify removing pesticides with organic solutions and seems to work well with reducing costs and creating efficiencies where departments are understaffed . It emphasis is using pesticides only you cannot find other alternatives and helps in justifying solutions. I've provided links below from EPA website that provide information that Kelly Perkins received information materials handed out during the Demonstration and Meeting with the EPA we were invited to. This system has been adopted by the LBUSD, UC Irvine and a number of municipalities and Govt Agencies. During our meetings Marie indicated she was seriously considering eliminating Glyphosates in LBC and developing IPM to implement metric to deal with other pesticides via IPM.

IPM is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and nontarget organisms, and the environment.

It should be known that I have a video that's about 15 minutes long that shows the city contractor applying round up in El Dorado Park 3 (North) where is has absolutely no Personal Protection Gear. He was spraying into the wind and all video shows all the Glyphosates blowing all over his body and he was clearly inhaling the spray. The exposure appeared even greater than what the man in the recent law suit appears to be dying from. The city was also trying alternative pesticides and methods in their own testing. The pesticide alternatives all produced worse results than Glyphosate. According to Marie, these were the best alternatives presented so far. All agencies, schools and municipalities that have adopted IPM have seen significant and marked cost savings by reducing many pesticides and finding more effective solutions that leave no environmental footprints.

If you have lost contact information to the EPA contact I brought the PRM department in touch with or some of the players that had adopted IPM and increased their cost savings, feel free to let me know and I will forward that to you.

Here are some links to the IPM program via the California EPA

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>

**Introduction to Integrated Pest Management**

<https://www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol/integrated-pest-management-ipm-principles>

**Introduction to Integrated Pest Management**

<https://www.epa.gov/managing-pests-schools/introduction-integrated-pest-management#Benefits>

**Benefits of Integrated Pest Management**

Here's a link the UC Irvine adopted.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/>

Warmest Regards,

Raman Vasishth  
5<sup>th</sup> District Resident

**From:** Marie Knight [<mailto:Marie.Knight@longbeach.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 9, 2017 10:06 AM  
**To:** Raman Vasishth  
**Cc:** Kelly Parkins; Hurley Owens; Valerie Davis; Susan Perkins  
**Subject:** Re: Weed Steamer Demonstration Attendees

Kelly will be there and has already connected with them.

Marie Knight, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Marine  
562-570-3170

Pardon any errors  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2017 11:52 AM  
**To:** [Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov); [Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov](mailto:Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov)  
**Cc:** 'Susan Perkins'; [Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov); [valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov](mailto:valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov)  
**Subject:** Huntington Beach Council Will Consider Initial Results/Costs/Benefits Of Using Non-Toxic Weed Killing-Methods In Its Parks, Medians, Public Facilities... 6PM tonight 8/7/17

I'm sorry for the short notice, but based on your keen interest in non-toxic solutions for weed killing, I thought you maybe interested in seeing this meeting regarding non-toxic methods to weed killing that will be entertained by the Huntington Beach City Council today at 6PM at the Huntington Beach, City Hall. I'm not sure I agree with the tenor of this article filed, but the important thing is sharing of information to hopefully share reduce overall costs to everyone. Here is some information regarding the meeting that also includes a video link to the meeting if you are interested and cannot attend: <http://www.lbreport.com/news/aug17/hbweeds.htm> . The City Council's office is located on the fourth floor of City Hall at 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648. The City Council's Administrative Assistant can be reached at 714-536-5553. I will be there and ask if they have heard about Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in addition to listening.

Have a pleasant day.

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2017 5:53 PM  
**To:** [Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov); [Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov](mailto:Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov)  
**Cc:** 'Susan Perkins'; [Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov); [valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov](mailto:valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Weed Steamer Demo and Contact Info.

For PRM folks, I forgot to mention if you type Weedtechnics on You Tube, you will see a variety of videos showing what the product does and many demonstrations: Here is one example I think the Parks department maybe interested in:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teu8IfaMAS8>

Have a great weekend. I'll see you there.

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2017 3:53 PM  
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**Subject:** RE: Weed Steamer Demo and Contact Info.

Hello All,

Attached is the agenda of the Weed Steamer Demo I just received from Sue Perkins. When I mentioned that Kelly Parkins was involved, she was very happy and said you were neighbors and know each other. Now you have the itinerary, agenda and contact information. You should now have the means to share. I hope this works and coordination with your offices grows.

Warmest Regards,

Raman

**From:** Susan Perkins [<mailto:SPerkins@lbschools.net>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 4, 2017 3:09 PM  
**To:** [ramanv@charter.net](mailto:ramanv@charter.net)  
**Subject:** Weed Steamer Demo

Good Afternoon Raman,

Below is the agenda for the WeedTechnics demo that LBUSD will be hosting on Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>.

Please reach out to your contacts at the parks. We would love to be able to share this information with the city.

Feel free to share my contact info with city parks staff and please let me know if you have any further questions or need more info.

### **Vegetation Management- Steam Weeder Demonstration**

August 14, 2017

Location: Butler ES/Renaissance HS  
1400 E. 20<sup>th</sup> St.  
Long Beach, CA 90806

#### **Open to all attendees**

10:00- 10:15	Welcome, Introductions Cheryl Wilen
10:15-11:15	PowerPoint presentation Jeremy Winer
11:15-11:30	Break
11:30-12:30	Demonstration

#### **Invite only**

1:30-until wide	Long Beach USD vegetation management, school-
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Thank you,  
Sue Perkins  
Assistant Director, Transportation  
IPM Coordinator

"I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy." - Rabindranath Tagore

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]

**Sent:** Monday, August 7, 2017 11:52 AM

**To:** [Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Marie.Knight@LongBeach.gov); [Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov](mailto:Kelly.Parkins@LongBeach.Gov)

**Cc:** 'Susan Perkins'; [Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov](mailto:Hurley.Owens@LongBeach.gov); [valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov](mailto:valerie.Davis@longbeach.gov)

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Assistant Director, Transportation  
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**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017 7:36 PM

**To:** 'Marie Knight'; 'Kelly Parkins'; 'Hurley Owens'

**Cc:** 'Valerie Davis'

**Subject:** RE: Weeds and grass around trees - Weedtechnics & gopher irradiation

OK here is goes:

For steam weeding, I really have good news and really need your feed back:

- 1) The owner of Weedtechnic lives in Australia and has been asked to fly into California at the states expense to demonstrate his Weedsteam machine. He will be in LBC demonstrating his machine with the EPA there and representatives of the LBUSD. Would you like to come for a demonstration on 8/14/17? Please say yes. Because this is the only window there is. It will be at 1400 E 29<sup>th</sup> Street LB 90808. Right now the time is expected at late morning. If so, please give me names. I will get you in. Nobody knows the cost of the equipment at this point.

Gophers:

- 2) The name of the company is Gopher X. The phone number is 619.442-8686 Website: <https://gopherx.com/> youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZce0N2s6pU>
- 3) LBUSD was spending \$14K a month paying a subcontractor eradicating gophers to cover 89 sites. They then purchased the machine for about \$1,500 and have the weeding people run the machine on an as needed basis. There is no poison and no hazard signs needed. You see smoke coming from all the connecting passageways.
- 4) They use the gopher machines on an as needed basic when they see the gopher mountains.
- 5) LBUSD can make this available to demonstrate this for you if you wish at the same time you arrive and show you after the presentation on Weedtech

Please let me know so I can let them know.

**From:** Raman Vasishth [<mailto:ramanv@charter.net>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017 11:53 AM  
**To:** 'Marie Knight'; 'Kelly Parkins'; 'Hurley Owens'  
**Cc:** 'Valerie Davis'  
**Subject:** RE: Weeds and grass around trees - Weedtechnics

Hello Marie,

Thank you for your quick reply. I'm glad this interests you. There are some neat videos that should help you and show you the ease of use.

I also discovered there is a process a School District uses that puts Carbon Monoxide into gopher holes and then covers up the holes as part of a humane effort kill the gophers without using any poisons or need to put up signs. They say the effort has greatly reduced the cost for them to irradiate the gophers and is extremely effective. They were spending about \$4500 and are now spending about \$1200 total for the year, I think.. I should have more complete information today or tomorrow as will pass it along to you as well.

Warmest Regards,

Raman

**From:** Marie Knight [<mailto:Marie.Knight@longbeach.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 2, 2017 10:47 AM  
**To:** Raman Vasishth; Kelly Parkins; Hurley Owens



**Cc:** Valerie Davis

**Subject:** Re: Weeds and grass around trees - Weedtechnics

Wow, very interesting and we will definitely look into it. Thanks for sharing

Marie Knight, Director  
Parks, Recreation and Marine  
562-570-3170

Pardon any errors  
Sent from my iPad

On Aug 2, 2017, at 9:27 AM, Raman Vasishth <[ramanv@charter.net](mailto:ramanv@charter.net)> wrote:

Hello Marie,

It was a pleasure meeting with you yesterday. I went to an EPA meeting for school districts and discovered there I an Australian Company called Weedtechnics that has just developed a steamer machine that steam weeds and can remove grass around trees in a few seconds and is something the LBUSD is looking into. Since the machine is just being rolled out, I'm not sure what the price is, but they just opened an office in Fresno, CA. I don't have a number for their Fresno office, but you can get that through their website. <http://www.weedtechnics.com/> . I don't know if this would be a lower cost solution than Roundup, but thought you maybe interested. This also can help make lines on athletic fields.

Warmest Regards,

Raman