



# Expedited Prairie Dog Management Response

Open Space Board of Trustees

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## Accelerating Work: 2019



Shift relocation focus to OSMP colonies



Address most impacted agricultural operations first



Increase relocation  
23 ac → 33 acres



Use barriers to slow re-colonization after relocation



Increase use of passive relocation & barriers on irrigated lands 2 → 15 ac

## The Issue

Prairie dog levels on numerous OSMP irrigated agricultural properties have:

- ▶ highlighted conflicts with city's prairie dog management and viable agricultural operations,
- ▶ affected OSMP's ability to fully meet charter purposes and
- ▶ caused soil degradation and loss

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## The Response

Provide OSBT with recommendations to help alleviate conflicts between viable agricultural uses of OSMP and city prairie dog policies and practices.

## Assumptions



Expedite the process



Focus on northern irrigated agricultural lands most affected by prairie dogs



Build on Prairie Dog Working Group recommendations



Include & go beyond current policies/work program



Consider lethal control, key-lining & soil amendments among other recommendations

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## Considerations



Immediacy of improvement/relief



Continuity of Field Operations



Public Engagement



Opportunity for strategy development and analysis



Geographic Scope



Investment (staff time and other expenses)

## Question for the Public Engagement

What actions should be recommended to the OSBT to reduce conflicts between viable agricultural uses of OSMP and city prairie dog policies and practices?



## Options and Analysis

### Three Alternatives A – B - C

- Schedule  
(two / four / eleven months)
- Level of public engagement  
(inform / consult / involve)
- Impact to ongoing operations  
(high / low)
- Level of strategy development and  
analysis
- Scope
- Cost



## Recommended Alternative

CONSIDERATION	RECOMMENDED ALTERNATIVE
Return to OSBT / Immediacy	May 2020 11 months
Public Engagement	Involve
Opportunity for strategy development and analysis	Good
Geographic scope	± Broader
Investment	500-650 hrs \$1K -\$15K
Disruption to 2019 accelerated efforts	Low