

Support for California's Transition to Clean Lawn Care Equipment

I support new regulations to end sale of leaf blowers and lawn equipment powered by fossil fuels that emit greenhouse gases, contribute to climate change while worsening air quality and health. While the currently proposed regulations do not prohibit the use of polluting equipment, they do propose restricting the production of new equipment to sell or lease for use in the State of California beginning in 2024. This is a modest but important step to advance greater use of cleaner, healthier and quieter equipment.

As your agency's own research has found, the use of gas-powered leaf blowers and lawn mowers in particular causes numerous health problems, greatly contributing to California's sad role as home to seven of the top ten most polluted cities in the nation. In fact, California risks losing future federal funding if we continue to fail to meet national air quality standards.

CARB's public health benefit analysis determined that these new regulations, if adopted, will result in:

- \$8.8 billion in monetized health benefits through 2043
- 892 lives saved from premature deaths
- 438 fewer emergency room visits for asthma
- 311 fewer hospitalizations for respiratory and cardiovascular issues

The California legislature has appropriated \$30 million for your agency to distribute to small proprietor landscapers to help them acquire new, zero emission electric and manual equipment. In addition, air districts around the state are also operating effective buyback and subsidy programs. Funding also must be provided for training programs to help landscapers switch to clean tools.

These regulations advance legislation enacted this year (AB 1346) to phase out the sale of gas-powered lawn equipment beginning in 2024, and also advance Governor Gavin Newsom's Executive Order N-79-20, which sets a goal to transition off-road vehicles and equipment operations to 100 percent zero-emission by 2035 where feasible.

Please vote to approve and amend the SORE regulations per the staff recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted By: Linda Hilman, lghillman@earthlink.net