

November 27, 2021
To: California Air Resources Board
From: Muriel Strand, P.E.
Re: Proposed Amendments to the Small Off-Road Engine Regulations

I support the adoption of these amended regulations which will phase out the sale of highly-polluting gas-powered leaf blowers and landscaping equipment in California beginning in 2024. Any measures limiting or banning the use of these widely-despised nuisances—which infest almost all neighborhoods these days—**will improve all Californians’ quality of life.**

I also strongly urge CARB to support replacement of all fossil-fuel powered equipment with manual equipment. Programs offering subsidies for electrical replacements should also always include subsidies for human-powered equipment.

Looking ahead to a radically different and more challenging future, we would be wise to reorient our landscape maintenance to be as useful as possible, rather than superficially attractive. More specifically, **landscape maintenance workers should be offered retraining in urban agriculture:** <http://motherearthhome.blogspot.com/>

I also urge CARB to seek the mandate and authority to regulate noise pollution, the orphan form of air pollution: <https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/content/dirt-blasters/1864716/>

If we cannot even stop using leafblowers, especially the horrid ones with engines, we deserve to be toast.

I urge CARB to approve these amended regulations, and in the future to support the development, manufacture and use of human-powered equipment as much as possible. **Using human-powered equipment creates more jobs than equipment powered by engines or motors.**