



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Air Resources Board

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### **Statement by ARB Chairman Dr. Robert Sawyer on California's Request for Waiver on Lawn and Garden Engine Regulation**

**WASHINGTON- DC:** "Small engines, including power mowers, edgers, and chainsaws, are major emitters of health threatening air pollution and available technology can reduce that sharply," according to Dr. Robert Sawyer, Chair of the California Air Resources Board.

"We are here to again ask USEPA to approve the waiver so that we can begin implementation of our pending 2007 rule on time and protect the health of Californians. Without the emissions reductions from these engines, Californians will needlessly be exposed to smog-forming hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide emissions, which negatively affect our public health and economy.

"As we continue to reduce emissions from cars, trucks, and buses throughout the state, pollution from these small engines equals about 4.5 percent of all mobile source emissions and is an ever-growing fraction of California's smog problems. California has regulated emissions from these engines since 1990 and has progressively worked to further reduce them as technology has improved.

"Our most recent rulemaking in 2003, cut emissions to a level that required many small engine manufacturers to use small catalytic converters, similar to those in cars, to assure pollution reductions. Safety tests conducted by USEPA determined that using catalysts in lawnmowers will not create fire hazards and assured us that the technologies used to further slash emissions from these engines present no fire danger.

"Most Californians live and work in areas that violate state and federal air pollution standards. We cannot afford to allow emissions sources to remain high polluters when there are easy, affordable technologies available to control them.

"These rules merely require builders of small lawn and garden equipment to do their fair share to help clean California's air."

*The Air Resources Board is a department of the California Environmental Protection Agency. ARB's mission is to promote and protect public health, welfare, and ecological resources through effective reduction of air pollutants while recognizing and considering effects on the economy. The ARB oversees all air pollution control efforts in California to attain and maintain health based air quality standards.*

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