



RON ROBERTS
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 9, 2003
TO: San Diego County Air Pollution Control Board
SUBJECT: ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER INCENTIVE PROGRAM (District: All)

SUMMARY:

Overview

Mowing Down Pollution lawn mower exchange incentive events have been held annually for the past three years. The Mowing Down Pollution event benefits county residents by reducing air pollution as a result of exchanging gasoline-powered lawn mowers for cordless rechargeable mowers. Each hour an electric mower is used in place of a gasoline mower the reduced pollution is approximately equal to that produced by 40 newer automobiles driving one hour on the freeway. The cordless rechargeable lawn mower was selected to avoid the tripping and electrical hazards that can result from using extension cords. Also, this model has a mulching feature that can reduce the amount of clippings going into landfills.

Black and Decker continues to be the only maker of electric, cordless, rechargeable lawn mowers, and continuing this program depends upon their participation. Based on customer feedback from the previous events, Black and Decker has provided customer satisfaction and a quality product. In accordance with Administrative Code, Article XXIII, Section 401 (a), the Director of Purchasing and Contracting will negotiate a contract not to exceed \$100,000 for up to 415 electric lawn mowers.

The anticipated price of \$390 per mower (after a \$59 rebate) is a fair and reasonable price for a \$449 electric, rechargeable mower with bag and mulching option. The Air Pollution Control District incentive will offset approximately \$240, plus tax, and citizens will again be able to purchase a new, non-polluting mower for \$150.

The 2003 program costs are projected to be \$125,000, with \$75,000 coming from Air Pollution Control District penalties collected from violators of air quality requirements and \$25,000 from the Air Resources Board. This will provide incentives for up to 415 new mowers. The remaining \$25,000 from Air Pollution Control District penalties will pay for event costs such as facilities, printed materials, advertising, disposal of old lawn mowers, and proper disposal of hazardous waste.

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Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR ROBERTS

1. Authorize the Air Pollution Control Officer to receive \$25,000 from the California Air Resources Board to offset electric lawn mower costs.
2. Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold this year's Lawn Mower Event on May 17, 2003.

Fiscal Impact

The recommended actions will result in no net county cost. Program expenditures were included in the fiscal year 2001-03 District Operating Plan, conditioned upon sufficient penalty revenue for fiscal year 2002-03.

A contract of approximately \$100,000 for up to 415 mowers will be negotiated with Black and Decker. Penalty revenue for this program is projected to be \$100,000, and the California Air Resources Board has offered \$25,000. Total 2003 program costs are projected to be \$125,000, with \$100,000 for 415 lawn mowers and no more than \$25,000 for other costs including facilities, printed materials, advertising, education and outreach, temporary services, old mower disposal (recycling), and proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND

The Mowing Down Pollution program has been a big success with community participation exceeding mower availability in each of the three previous years. Last year, people began lining up for mowers at 10:00 p.m. the night before the event and all mowers were distributed by 9:00 a.m. the morning of the event. At the conclusion of this year's event, 2,000 zero-emission mowers will have been distributed since the start of the program. The reduced pollution as a direct result of this Mowing Down Pollution program is equivalent to the pollution from about 160,000 newer automobiles. Clearly, this program is making a difference to improve our air quality.

At this year's event, we will again require all fuel and oil be drained from the exchanged mowers and be properly disposed of before the event. Mowers must be completely equipped and appear operable, including properly attached handle, all four wheels, motor, blade, housing, and starting mechanism (rope or switch). To insure proper disposal of mowers and hazardous materials, a hazardous material hauler will be hired to oversee and destroy the large stockpile of exchanged mowers for the 2003 event.

Additionally, a continuing waiver of Board Policy A-87 was approved on March 13 2002 (APCB 1) for future-years' programs, so long as Black and Decker remains the only manufacturer of

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rechargeable, cordless, electric lawn mowers. This waiver would no longer be valid if, and when, another manufacturer(s) enters this specific market or equivalent mowers with equal or lower emissions become commercially available.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor
Fourth District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	
Written disclosure per County Charter Section 1000.1 required	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY FINANCE DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Requires Four Votes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
GROUP/AGENCY INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
Other Concurrence(s):	N/A	

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Fourth Supervisorial District

CONTACT PERSON(S):

Name

Phone

Fax

Mail Station

E-mail

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE:

Ron Roberts
Supervisor
Fourth District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

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PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

March 13, 2002 (APCB 1), Sole-Source Contract for Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program;
May 8, 2001 (APCB 1), Sole-Source Contract for Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program;
October 25, 2000 (APCB 1), Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program - Mowing Down Pollution;
July 11, 2000 (APCB 1), Approved the Mowing Down Pollution event.

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

A-87, Competitive Procurement.

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

N/A

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):

N/A