



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

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: April 26, 2006
TO: Board of Supervisors
SUBJECT: ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER TRADE-IN PROGRAM (DISTRICT: ALL)
SUMMARY:

Overview

For the past six years, the Air Pollution Control Board has held the highly successful Mowing Down Pollution Lawn Mower Trade-in event. Regional air pollution is reduced as gasoline-powered lawn mowers are exchanged for new cordless rechargeable electric mowers. Some gasoline mowers emit 40 times more pollution per hour than a single late model automobile, while the replacement electric mowers offered by the Board emit zero pollutants. This is a request to direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold this year's Mowing Down Pollution event on May 6, 2006, and make available up to 400 cordless electric lawn mowers for San Diego County residents.

Recommendation(s)

SUPERVISOR ROBERTS:

1. Direct the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to negotiate a contract with Black and Decker not to exceed \$96,000 for up to 400 lawn mowers.
2. Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold a Lawn Mower Trade-in Event that exchanges up to 400 gasoline-powered lawn mowers for new, non-polluting cordless rechargeable mowers for \$150 each.
3. Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold this year's Lawn Mower Trade-in Event on May 6, 2006, and authorize \$9,000 for event costs.

Fiscal Impact

This request is included in the Fiscal Year 2005-06 Operational Plan. The funding source is \$105,000 from penalties received for violations of air quality laws. Up to 400 lawn mowers will be purchased for \$96,000. The remaining \$9,000 will be used for other event costs. If approved, this request will result in no increase in current year costs and revenues and no increase in subsequent years' costs and revenue. This will require no net General Fund cost and no additional staff years

SUBJECT:

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The Mowing Down Pollution program has been a noteworthy regional success story. At the conclusion of this year's event, we will have distributed more than 3,140 zero-emission mowers since the launch of the program in 2000. The gain for our communities is a reduction of over 15 tons per year of volatile organic compounds (ozone precursors) emissions. This is equivalent to hourly emissions from approximately 125,600 late model automobiles. Clearly, the Mowing Down Pollution program is making a difference in San Diego's improved air quality and the quality of life of our citizens.

The Board is securing the mowers, which typically retail for \$449 each, for \$390 per unit. After the revenue from the \$150 exchange, the Air Pollution Control District will offset the remaining \$240 for each mower. The 2006 program costs are projected at \$105,000 with funding derived from penalties collected in Fiscal Year 2005-2006 by the Air Pollution Control District for violations of air quality laws. Up to \$96,000 will be utilized for incentives for up to 400 new mowers and the remaining \$9,000 will pay for event costs such as facilities, printed materials, advertising, and disposal of old lawn mowers and hazardous waste.

Residents will be required to drain and properly dispose of the fuel and oil from their existing lawnmowers prior to the exchange. Gas operating mowers will also be required to be completely equipped and operable, including but not limited to a properly attached handle, all four wheels, motor, blade, housing, and starting mechanism (rope or switch). To ensure proper disposal of mowers and hazardous materials, a hazardous material hauler, and a recycling company will be hired to oversee the destruction and recycling of the large stockpile of exchanged mowers.

A cordless, electric, rechargeable lawn mower has been selected to avoid tripping and electrical hazards that can result from the use of extension cords. Also, the selected model has a mulching feature that will mitigate the volume of clippings into our landfills. Black and Decker continues to be the only maker of 19" electric, cordless, rechargeable lawn mowers, and continuing this program depends upon their participation through reducing the cost of mowers by offering a manufacturer's rebate.

Based on customer feedback from prior events, Black and Decker provides customer satisfaction and a quality product. On March 13, 2002 (APCB #1), the Board authorized a continuing waiver of Board Policy A-87 for future-years' programs so long as Black and Decker remains the only manufacturer of 19-inch 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 emissions become commercially available. No such alternative mowers are currently available.

SUBJECT:

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Vice-Chairman
Supervisor, Fourth District

SUBJECT:

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

CONCURRENCE(S)

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|--|---|---|
| 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 |
| COUNTY TECHNOLOGY OFFICE | <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 Supervisoral District

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: _____

SUBJECT:

AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET
(continued)

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:

07/27/05 (APCB #2), Electric Lawn Mower Trade-in Program;
02/25/04 (APCB#1), Electric Lawn Mower Incentive Program;
04/09/03 (APCB#2), Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program;
03/13/02 (APCB#1), Sole-Source Contract for Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program;
05/08/01 (APCB#1), Sole-Source Contract for Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program;
10/25/00 (APCB#1), Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program – Mowing Down Pollution;
07/11/00 (APCB#1), Approved the Mowing Down Pollution Event.

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:

A-87, Competitive Procurement

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:

CONTRACT NUMBER(S):