



RON ROBERTS

CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: May 2, 2012

AP01

TO: Air Pollution Control Board

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER TRADE-IN PROGRAM (DISTRICT: ALL)

SUMMARY:

Overview

For the past 12 years, the Air Pollution Control Board has held the highly successful Mowing Down Pollution Lawnmower Trade-in event. At these events, residents turned in their completely equipped and operable gasoline lawnmowers with the fuel and oil removed. After a lawnmower was accepted for exchange, residents received a new cordless electric lawnmower for a significantly reduced price. All of the old lawnmowers turned in during the event were recycled.

If approved, this request will direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold this year's Mowing Down Pollution Lawnmower Trade-in event on May 19, 2012, at the County Administration Center and annually through June 30, 2015, at locations to be determined later. The request will also make available to San Diego County residents a minimum of 650 cordless, rechargeable electric lawnmowers at a discounted price for this year and for three subsequent fiscal years, subject to funding availability.

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN ROBERTS

1. Find that it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility the proposed action may have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and that this action is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15061(b)(3).
2. Direct the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to negotiate a purchase agreement not to exceed \$147,000 annually for a minimum of 650 cordless, rechargeable electric lawnmowers for each year in the period May 19, 2012 through June 30, 2015.
3. Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold the Lawnmower Trade-in event on an annual basis through June 30, 2015, and authorize a total of \$185,000 annually to support this project subject to funding availability.

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4. Direct the Air Pollution Control Officer to hold a Lawnmower Trade-in event on May 19, 2012, where a minimum of 650 gasoline-powered lawnmowers can be exchanged by County of San Diego residents for new, non-polluting cordless, rechargeable electric lawnmowers for \$99.99 each, including tax

Fiscal Impact

Funds in the amount of \$185,000 annually are included in the Fiscal Years 2011-12 and subsequent years' Operational Plans for costs to support the program, includes costs of \$226 per mower, and the remaining costs for signage, mower disposal, and other costs for the event. The funding source is penalties received for violations of air quality laws. Each subsequent fiscal year's program is subject to funding availability and may include grants if such are available. If approved, this request will result in no increase in current or subsequent years' costs and revenues. This project will require no net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

BACKGROUND:

The Mowing Down Pollution Lawnmower Trade-in event has been a remarkable regional success story. At the conclusion of this 13th annual event, the Air Pollution Control Board will have distributed 6,589 zero-emission lawnmowers since the launch of the program in 2000. The benefit to the San Diego County community is the elimination of more than 65,000 pounds of air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds and other emissions that are ozone precursors. This is equivalent to eliminating the emissions that would result from operating about 180,000 late model automobiles for one hour. The Mowing Down Pollution Lawnmower Trade-In event is making a difference in San Diego County by improving air quality and, ultimately, protecting public health and enhancing our quality of life.

A competitive multi-year procurement was issued as a request for bids on February 6, 2012. The successful bidder, Black & Decker, is providing a cordless, electric rechargeable lawnmower that avoids the hazards associated with extension cords, along with supplying cashing for the event. The model, CM1936, is powered by a 36 volt sealed battery and is ideal for up to a third-acre lot. With a 19-inch cutting width, the mower includes a mulching feature that will help to reduce the volume of lawn clippings going into our landfills. This highly-rated cordless electric lawnmower, which typically retails for about \$420, will be obtained for a considerably reduced price. Residents of the County of San Diego will pay \$99.99 per unit (including sales tax) and the District will offset the remaining balance for each lawnmower with District appropriated funds for a total of \$147,000, or approximately \$226 per lawnmower. The contract with the vendor specifies that any unsold mowers are returned to the vendor and the final payment will depend on the number of electric lawnmowers sold at the trade-in event(s).

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Residents will be required to drain and properly dispose of the fuel and oil from their existing lawnmowers prior to the exchange and the lawnmowers exchanged must be in working condition. The District will ensure the old lawnmowers are recycled and the waste fluids are disposed of in a legal and environmentally responsible manner.

Environmental Statement

To date, the Mowing Down Pollution Lawnmower Trade-in event has resulted in a reduction of more than 59,000 pounds of air pollutants, including volatile organic compounds and other harmful emissions, which are ozone precursors. With the exchange of 650 mowers this year, the size of that reduction will grow to 65,000 pounds since the program's inception. Additional reductions will come from future trade-in events conducted under this program. Pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant adverse effect on the environment. Since this program positively impacts air quality and the environment it is exempt from CEQA.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's proposed actions support the Environment Initiative in the County of San Diego's 2012-2017 Strategic Plan, with an objective to ensure environmental preservation and enhance quality of life. By funding requests for emission reduction projects, harmful air emissions will be reduced and air quality will be improved.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
N/A

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
NA

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: District 4, Board of Supervisors

OTHER CONCURRENCE(S): N/A

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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