

Martinez, Ruben

From: Olga Stangl <c
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:43 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

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>> Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council:

>>

>> My family strongly supports recommendation #1 on the agenda. Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.

>>

>> In addition, the current code (9.37.030) prohibits leaf-blowing machine use at any time on Sunday. We would like the City to please consider extending the no use at any time ban to also include Saturday.

>>

>> Thank you very much.

>>

>> Sincerely,

>> Olga & Michael Stangl

>> Pasadena, CA

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RECEIVED
2021 OCT 15 AM 11:58
CITY CLERK
CITY OF PASADENA

10/12/2021

Dear Council,

We, the Two-Stroke Engine Ad Hoc Committee (Committee) of the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC), are delighted to learn the Council has received our dossier. It is the product of many months of careful research and discussion by our Committee. The Committee consisted of four commissioners—each from a different district of the City and bringing to the table a wide range of experience from professional backgrounds, including the sciences, law, and public policy. We are proud of our work, and we were delighted when so many members of the public appeared at the public forum where our information was distributed and debated.

The packet before you contains our great City's history of leaf blowers (a proxy for all two-stroke engines); a list of two-stroke engine bans and ordinances across all California counties (current through January 2020, when the Committee prepared the packet to be reviewed by the EAC); a review of the environmental, personal, and community hazards associated with two-stroke engines; and public comments spanning many years. We believe our work demonstrates not only an appetite for action, but also that rapidly changing technological advances make healthier and safer practices more affordable today than in past years.

We urge adoption of Recommendation #1, which is directly in line with the recommendation offered by the EAC on February 9, 2021 and would direct the City Attorney to draft a new ordinance. The proposed new ordinance would come back before Council for discussion and consideration of public comment. Ultimately, we hope the Council will expedite action to amend an ordinance that no longer serves the community well.

The time to act is now. Notably, approximately 20% of California counties are already enacting at least a partial ban on two-stroke engines (please review the packet). Therefore, others have already acted to address this problem, leaving Pasadena in the metaphorical and literal dust. Unfortunately, until now, Pasadena has acted neither as a leader nor a fast follower. But we can catch up.

We recommend you look at this problem through an equity lens, understanding that operators at small enterprises are disproportionately people of color and rely on this equipment for their livelihood. Therefore, we recommend the City provide outreach on the perils of two-stroke engine lawn equipment in English and Spanish (as outlined in Measure T-7.1 in Pasadena's Climate Action Plan). The City, which takes pride in being a leader in so many ways, should also lead by example and completely discontinue use of two-stroke engines (if applicable). We applaud the City for its purchase of electric leaf blowers in recent years, but more can be done, including requiring City contractors to utilize low-emissions landscaping equipment.

The EAC has fulfilled its responsibility by putting forth a good faith effort to gather and summarize the requisite information and recommend reasonable next steps.

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The rest is up to you. City Council should undertake concrete action by directing the City Attorney to draw up an amended ordinance.

Sincerely,

The Two-Stroke Engine Ad Hoc Committee of the
Environmental Advisory Commission

Martinez, Ruben

From: Deborah Dentler <ddentler@pasadenacalifornia.gov>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 7:07 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: comment on Agenda Item 13, City Council Meeting 10-13-21

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Dear Honorable Mayor Gordo, City Councilmembers, and City Staff,

I am a condo owner and resident of the Playhouse District neighborhood in Councilman Kennedy's district. My husband (Tony Segall) owns his office building on Marengo Ave. in Councilman Madison's district, and our grandchildren are growing up in Councilman Wilson's district. Our family loves Pasadena and we are proud of the City's reputation for its high quality of life.

Unfortunately, all our neighborhoods are blasted continuously by leaf blowers from well before the legal 8 a.m. start time to well into evening hours. In our increasingly dense city, where many live like I do near schools, churches, offices and stores that all use gardeners, with minimal setbacks, no lawns to buffer debris, emissions and noise, the ubiquitous use of leaf blowers makes for a very stressful and unhealthy environment.

I'm pleased that the gardening contractor who works at my condo complex has finally switched to electric blowers, but I continue to have to report code violations up and down my block when leaf blowers at the other MFR buildings and businesses in my neighborhood violate the ordinance. As hard as city staff works to stay on top of complaints, the system is deeply broken because City employees are powerless to cite a violator unless the conduct is personally observed by the code enforcement staff person. Most violators are gone before a code enforcer can show up (and many gardeners begin work hours before City staff start their work days).

I was honored to serve as a commissioner and vice chair of the City's Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). I headed the ad hoc committee on two-stroke engine landscaping equipment. Our committee spent hundreds of hours researching the topic of leaf blowers in response to public comments received by the EAC and several hundred posts by Pasadena residents and business interests on social media sites such as NextDoor.com.

At the suggestion of former Mayor Tornek, our committee held a public forum to present our research and get input from stakeholders.

At the start of all this work, we asked that City staff resources be allocated to assist with this project, but we were turned down. The City Manager made clear there was little or no interest among councilmembers in seeing the subject of leafblowers come before Council. As a result, the EAC was left to its own devices to figure out how to respond to the public's concerns about noise, pollution, human health impacts and greenhouse gas emissions.

The EAC decided to go ahead to do all our own research and investigation. As a private individual, I obtained some information from the City by submitting a request under the Public Records Act, and the resulting information helped our committee decide what further research might be useful to City Council.

I urge you to review the EAC's detailed packet of carefully-researched information, and to take action.

The time to act is now. California's governor just last week signed into law a law that will outlaw gas leaf blowers in 2024.

Pasadena should have acted sooner. But it's never too late to demonstrate leadership.

--

Deborah Dentler, Attorney

email:

cell:

office voicemail:

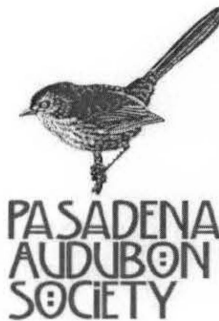
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2021 OCT 18 AM 8:37

CITY CLERK
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Amigos de los Rios



October 17, 2021

Pasadena City Council
175 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101

RE: SUPPORT | Clean, Climate-Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As community-based organizations and stakeholders committed to improving health, sustainability, and quality of life in Pasadena, we appreciate the City's efforts to implement its adopted Climate Action Plan. However, **more direct action is needed in the short term in order to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community, including a strong local policy on the use of small off-road engines (SOREs).**

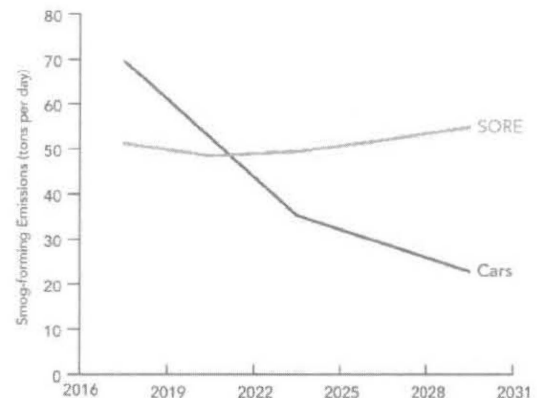
Pasadena lies within an extreme non-attainment zone for air quality per US EPA; in other words, we live in one of the most polluted air basins in the United States. **Small off-road engines (SORE) emit high levels of air pollutants -- including nitrogen oxides (NOx), reactive organic gases (ROG), and particulate matter (PM) -- and are predicted to surpass emissions from light-duty passenger**

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cars in 2021. According to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB), engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry. This level of pollution disproportionately impacts the health and safety of lower-income workers who use the largely unregulated, polluting gas models for hours on any given work day.

The need for additional controls

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted emissions standards for small engines in 1990 and was the first agency in the world to control emissions from these engines. Due to the regulations put in place by CARB, small engines are 40-80% cleaner today than they were before the program began. In the early 2020s, however, total smog-forming emissions from small engines are projected to exceed those from passenger cars in the South Coast Air Basin because passenger car emissions will continue to decrease. By 2031, small engine emissions will be more than twice those from passenger cars.



*Chart illustrating projected rise in SORE emissions and reduction in vehicle emissions.
Source: CA Air Resources Board*

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. In addition to phasing out dirty gas blowers, Pasadena should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity. A local policy should limit the use of all leaf blowers to hardscapes only, and require that fallen leaves which are a crucial part of the foodweb not be blown off the property.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment.

Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition. The [Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Incentive Program](#) exchanges older, polluting gasoline- or diesel-powered commercial lawn and garden equipment for new zero emission, battery electric commercial grade equipment. The program allows participants to select from a variety of available makes and models of commercial-grade equipment, including handheld trimmers, chainsaws, pruners, backpack and handheld blowers and ride-on, stand-on, walk-behind and robotic lawn mowers. The 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join others across the state in acting locally to accelerate the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf

blowers, effective October 1, 2022. The City's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8th. AB 1346 will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

The undersigned urge the Pasadena City Council to join communities across California in adopting a local policy that:

- 1. phases out polluting gas yard equipment,**
- 2. requires the use of zero emission yard equipment,**
- 3. limits the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and requires that leaves not be blown off the property, and**
- 4. supports local small businesses in taking this step.**

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

David Diaz, MPH

Executive Director

Active San Gabriel Valley

Cheryl Auger

President

BAN SUP

Paloma Avila

Programs and Development Manager

Arlington Garden in Pasadena

Lois Brunet

Program Director

Pasadena Audubon

Jonathan Levy

Zero Waste Consultant

Zero Waste Guy

Martha Y. Zavala

President

League of Women Voters Pasadena Area

Claire Robinson

Executive Director

Amigos de los Rios

Christy Zamani

Executive Director

Day One

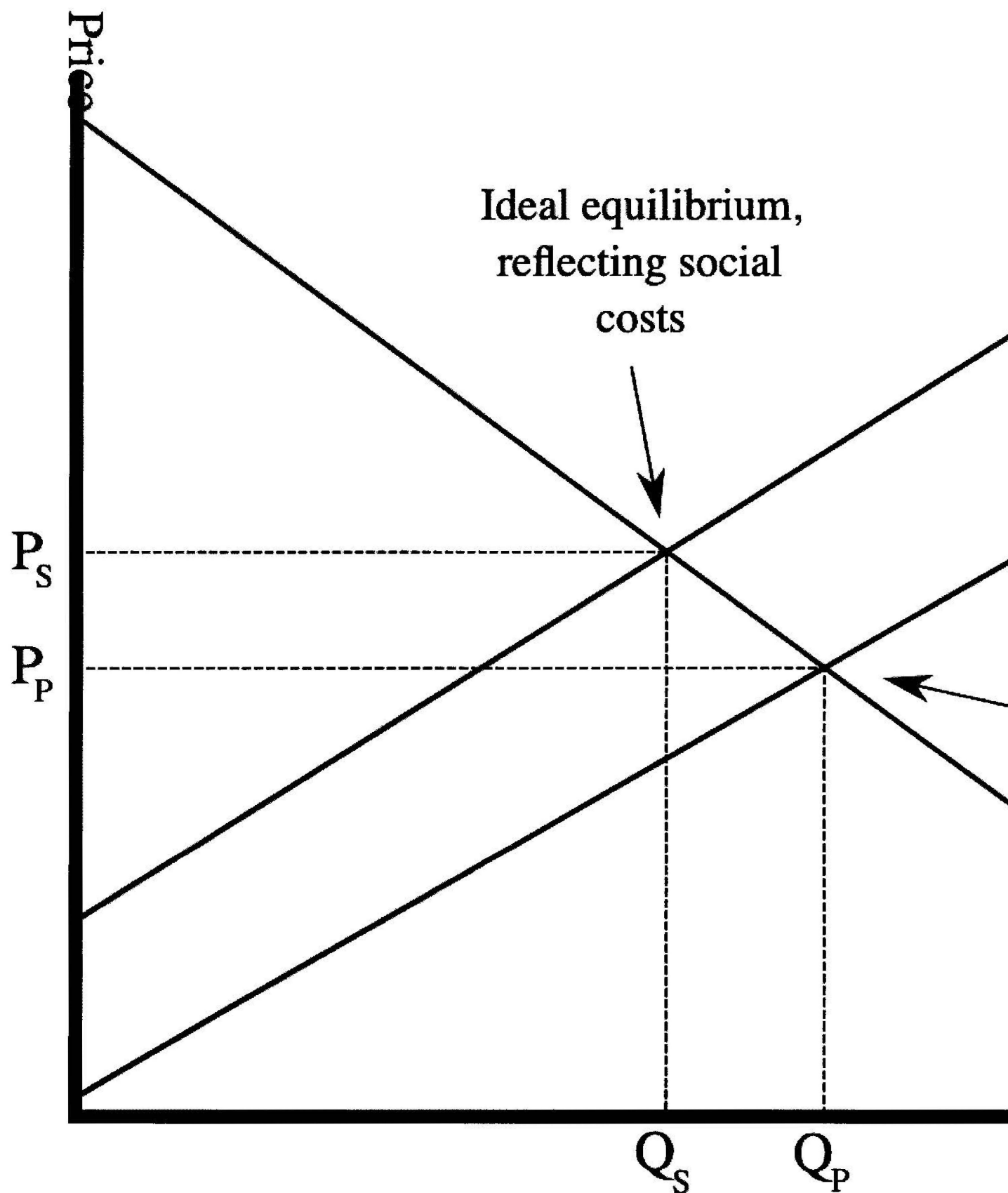
Martinez, Ruben

From: Jonathan Edwards
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:53 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Subject: Agenda Item 10 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Gas Leaf Blowers are a major nuisance to residents everywhere.
Noise, dust, pollution... these are classic *externalities*.

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I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero-emission yard equipment policy.

Cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment:

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance. In 2021 the California State legislature also passed AB 1346, which was signed into law by Governor Newsom on October 8th. AB 134 will ban the sale of new gas-powered leaf-blowers, lawnmowers, and other small off-road engines (SOREs) by 2024 or earlier if deemed feasible by the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

Now is the time to

- Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Jonathan Edwards • Jonathan.Edwards@pasadenacalifornia.gov

Community Engagement & Communications Director • Pasadena, California

• office phone

• cell:

• California License # 0F63642

[LinkedIn](#) • [Website](#)

Martinez, Ruben

From: cheryl auger < >
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:46 PM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 13 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

As a Pasadena resident who cares deeply about the quality of the air we breathe, the sustainability of our community, and quality of life in Pasadena, I urge you to support the adoption of a local zero emission yard equipment policy as soon as possible.

Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. **The City should also mandate the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape only.**

Sadly, Pasadena uses combustion engines for their equipment as well and should be included in the scope of the ordinance.

Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

Pasadena has an opportunity to join other communities across the state in accelerating the adoption of cleaner, quieter, battery-electric yard equipment. On September 1, 2021 our neighbors in the City of South Pasadena adopted a local policy that phases out the use of gas leaf blowers, effective October 1, 2022. South Pasadena's policy is designed to be non-punitive to small business owners by holding the property owner or tenant, whichever person authorizes the use of a gas-powered leaf blower, responsible for violations of the ordinance.

Now is the time to:

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

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Thank you for your commitment to clean air and biodiversity.

Cheryl Auger

Martinez, Ruben

From: Katherine Gillespie <
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:13 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Re: Leaf blowers

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> On Oct 4, 2021, at 8:07 AM, Katherine Gillespie <kwdgill@mac.com> wrote:
>
> Please include my correspondence at the October 4, 2021 City Council
> Meeting Agenda Item 10: Consideration of Direction Related to
> Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines
>
> Dear Mayor Gordo and Pasadena City Council:
>
> My family strongly supports recommendation #1 on the agenda. Please direct the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance prohibiting the use of gas-powered leaf blowers.
>
> In addition, the current code (9.37.030) prohibits leaf-blowing machine use at any time on Sunday. We would like the City to please consider extending the no use at any time ban to also include Saturday.
>
> The noise of these machines pollutes our neighborhood daily and is so invasive we cannot sit on our patio. My husband has ear plugs to allow him in nap in the afternoon. We have bought our gardener an electric blower which is very effective.
>
> Thank you very much.
>
> Sincerely,
> Katherine Gillespie
> -
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPad

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Deborah Dentler <
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:43 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Cc: Daniel Rossman
Subject: Robin Abcarian op-ed re leafblowers

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Dear City Council and City Staff,

I previously submitted a comment for City Council consideration at the 10.18.21 Council meeting, agenda item 13.

Yesterday, the LA Times ran an opinion piece by Robin Abcarian that slightly differs from a statement I made in my comment. It turns out I was mistaken in thinking the governor signed into law a bill "banning" gas leaf blowers starting 2024. According to Abcarian, the bill merely prohibits *sale* after 2024 (not their use or the importation from other states). If that is so, gas leaf blowers will continue to be used indefinitely and we in Pasadena will continue to endure well beyond 2024 the hardships and health effects described in Abcarian's excellent piece.

The Abcarian op-ed is here:

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-10-17/ban-sale-gas-powered-leaf-blowers>

I am copying the chair of the EAC on this email and will also share with members of my former committee of the EAC, the ad hoc 2-stroke landscape equipment committee.

--
Deborah Dentler, Attorney
email:
cell:
office voicemail.

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Una Lee Jost <una.lee.jost@cityofpasadena.net>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:51 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: 2021-10-18 Pasadena City Council Meeting - Public Comment - Agenda Item #13

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Dear Pasadena City Clerk and Councilmembers,

I understand that Agenda item #10 on the Oct. 4 Council agenda pertaining to the topic of "Consideration of Direction Related to Gas-Powered Leaf Blowing Machines" was not discussed, and was continued to today's Oct. 18 Council agenda as Agenda item #13.

However, I notice that the numerous pieces of correspondence received by the City for the Oct. 4 Council meeting pertaining to Agenda item #10 was not carried over and re-posted to today's Oct. 18 Council agenda.

I assume this was an oversight, and that the correspondence received at the Oct. 4 Council agenda for Agenda item #10 will also be posted to today's Oct. 18 Council agenda for Agenda item #13?

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Una Lee Jost, Resident of Pasadena

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Martinez, Ruben

From: Jazmine De La Torre
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:28 AM
To: PublicComment-AutoResponse
Subject: Agenda Item 13 - Please Support a Clean Air, Climate Friendly Yard Equipment Policy for Pasadena

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Dear Mayor Gordo and members of the Pasadena City Council,

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Pasadena needs to do more to combat the climate crisis, biodiversity loss, and air pollution in our community.

In 2021 leaf blowers and other small off-road engines (SOREs) will emit more pollution than all the light-duty passenger cars in California, according to the CA Air Resources Board (CARB). Engines in this category are primarily used for lawn, garden, and other outdoor power equipment, with an estimated 16.7 million in use across California, versus 13.7 million light-duty passenger cars. CARB estimates that one hour of operation of a commercial leaf blower can emit as much ROG and NOx as driving 1,100 miles in a 2017 Toyota Camry.

Leaf blowers are also destructive for the habitat of butterflies, beetles, bees, moths and other creatures that make their homes and lay their eggs in leaves. There is a knock-on effect on our wild bird populations who depend on healthy insect populations for their survival. Both bird and insect populations are in steep decline. The City should also encourage residents to limit the use of leaf blowers to support local biodiversity, including limiting the use of blowers to the hardscape only.

Over half of household lawn and garden equipment is already zero-emission, but commercial landscapers have historically had lower adoption rates of zero-emission equipment. Equipment used for commercial purposes requires additional batteries and chargers, increasing the upfront costs of cleaner, healthier, zero-emission equipment. Fortunately local air quality districts such as SCAQMD already have programs in place to support commercial operators in making the transition, and the 2021-22 state budget includes \$30 million in new funding to support such programs.

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Now is the time to:

- 1) Phase out polluting gas yard equipment,
- 2) Limit the use of leaf blowers to the hardscape and require leaves not be blown off the property, and
- 3) Support local small businesses in taking this step.

Thank you for your commitment to clean air,

Jazmine De La Torre