

CLCA Asks California Cities to Reconsider Leaf Blower Bans

The California Landscape Contractors Association called upon the state's 20 cities that have enacted leaf blower bans to reconsider them in the wake of a California Air Resources Board report that failed to find serious health or environmental consequences when the newest technology is used properly.

"Total bans are overkill and extremely harmful to working class people, and we hope they will be lifted by communities that have so far gone to those extremes," said David Norred, CLCA's president.

ARB's staff wrote the 61-page report in response to a request from the California Legislature to summarize the potential health and environmental impacts of leaf blowers and recommend alternatives to their use, if alternatives were deemed necessary. Entitled, "A Report to the California Legislature on Potential Health and Environmental Impacts of Leaf Blowers," the document was released on December 13, 1999 and is scheduled for consideration by ARB at a meeting to be held Thursday and Friday, January 27-28, at the South Coast Air Quality Management District Auditorium in Diamond Bar.

Norred said the report is "the most thorough examination of the health and environmental impacts to date and will be the starting point for all future public policy discussions about leaf blowers, not only in California, but throughout the world."

Norred noted that the document examines three potential impacts: exhaust emissions, dust emissions, and noise. While the report raises some areas of concern about all three, Norred emphasized that it does not conclude that equipment is more of a problem than many other types of mechanized devices used in and around the home, nor does it make recommendations for alternatives.

Landscape workers, who may be in very close proximity to
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New GCSAA Web Site Look Coming Soon

GCSAA members have asked for an easier way to get around the GCSAA web site, and now the site is being revamped. The GCSAA soon will be unveiling its web site "facelift."

If you haven't visited the site lately, here's what you can expect:

- 1) One click access to the site's most popular features.
- 2) News and announcements on the home page where you can easily find them.
- 3) A new quick poll to collect your opinions on a variety of industry issues.
- 4) Easier access to the entire site's contents.

And, to further prepare you, here's what you won't find:

- 1) Frames!
- 2) An FYI Java applet to slow the home page down.
- 3) A separate members-only area. All the "members only" features will be available from the public side but will still be password-protected just as they are now.
- 4) The GCSAA Exchange and Student Union discussion forums. It's been recommended that these forums be discontinued due to lack of participation.

The site's new look is much easier to read, easier to navigate, and easier to use. Check it out if you haven't been there in a while! /

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Leaf Blower Bans (Cont'd)

the machines for several hours on a daily basis, appear from the report to be far more likely to be affected by any potential impacts than bystanders or individuals who occasionally use the machines around their own homes, said Norred. "Landscape maintenance contractors and gardeners should learn from this report by making sure appropriate breathing and hearing protection is used, purchasing the quietest available leaf blower technology, and shifting as quickly as possible to Year 2000 models that are significantly less polluting than older ones."

Norred said pending legislation, cosponsored by CLCA, would go a long way toward addressing the potential impacts mentioned in the report. Assembly Bill 1609 by Tony Cardenas (D-Sylmar) would authorize cities and counties to ban all but the quietest available leaf blower technology, require testing and certification of blowers used for commercial purposes, and mandate common sense rules of leaf blower courtesy. "This bill addresses the issues discussed in the report without stripping landscape maintenance professionals of an essential tool," he stated. /

Naumann's NorCal News

Tom Zoller is leaving Cinnabar Hills Golf Course in San Jose to become the superintendent at Tehama Golf Club in Carmel. Tom is replacing **Carl King** who is retiring and moving back to the Palm Springs area . . . **Bill Conrad** is moving to Walden at Lake Houston Golf and CC in Houston, Texas. Bill was the superintendent at Summit Pointe Golf Course in Milpitas. His replacement has yet to be named . . . **Eric Greypok** is the new superintendent at Pebble Beach Golf Links. Eric was the assistant prior to his promotion. He is replacing **Mark Michaud** who recently accepted the position of superintendent at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on Long Island in New York. The US Open is scheduled to return to Sinnecock in 2004



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