

## 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  
*See "Leaf Blower Bans" Cont'd on page 7*

## 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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