

Clean Air Fund Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

April 25, 2007

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.
- II. Approve summary of the April 18, 2006 meeting: The Committee approved the summary.
- III. Public Comment: There was no public comment.
- IV. Staff Report: There was no staff report.
- V. Old Business:

Electric Lawn Mower Trade-In Program Update: So far, the Clean Air Fund has retired 52 gasoline power lawn mowers. Out of the \$65,000 grant, approximately \$59,000 remains. The District has had a couple of newspaper articles in the Ventura County Star, and the District's website has two Lawn-Mower Trade-In pages including one which has been translated into Spanish. Also, 10,000 post cards (4 color) were printed and distributed to city halls, libraries, senior centers, and churches in the County.

- VI. New Business:

Replacement Committee Member:

Rick Sauerwein, one of the appointed members from the Business group has resigned. Mr. Villegas, APCO, introduced Manuel Ceja, Site Health, Environmental, and Safety Leader from Procter and Gamble who has volunteered to serve on the committee. Mr. Ceja is also currently a member of the APCD Advisory Committee. Ms. Kobayashi moved to recommend Mr. Ceja as a Committee member, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Poole. All Committee members present and participating via telephone approved the motion.

Proposed Project: Electric Lawn Mower Exchange Program Proposal to Add Another Vendor

Mr. Cowen presented information on a proposal from County Home Products, vendor for the Neuton cordless electric mower. The vendor has agreed to provide their mower at a discount price of \$299, and the final price would be \$149 after deducting the \$150 Clean Air Fund voucher. This lawn mower has received good reviews, and is the mainstay for lawn mower trade-in events up and down the state.

County Home Products has offered to work with APCD in a similar manner to Lowe's, except the mower is manufactured in Vermont and must be shipped to program participants. County Home has promised to ship the mowers from a west coast warehouse via Federal Express at no cost to program participants. Program participants would still take their old gasoline mower to the metal recycler, and APCD would issue a

voucher containing a sales code that could be used for telephone or online ordering. County Home Products has promised to email the District to confirm every order so that only program participants would qualify for the discount.

Adding another vendor would provide program participants with another choice of electric lawn mowers and possibly boost participation in the program. Mr. Poole moved to recommend the proposal to the Air Pollution Control Board, and Ms. Neiswender seconded the motion. All Committee members present and participating via telephone voted in support of the motion.

Proposed Projects – Commercial Leaf Blower Exchange Programs

In 2006, Commercial Leaf Blower Exchange Programs were implemented in both the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) and Yolo Solano AQMD. Similar to the marine outboard trade-in program, this grant program reduces emissions by replacing older 2 stroke gasoline powered commercial leaf blowers with new, quieter, cleaner gasoline models. These newer models reduce hydrocarbon plus NOx emissions by over 90 percent.

Based on the success of the Leaf Blower Exchange Program in the South Coast AQMD, district staff contacted their vendor, Pacific Stihl, for a proposal. The proposal contains all the logistical support needed to hold one or two trade-in events for the trade-in of 100 or 200 commercial leaf blowers. Stihl is offering promotional assistance by using industry and dealer mailing lists, by designing bilingual brochures and posters, and by assisting with the mail-out. They are also offering the use of a dedicated phone line with a bi-lingual operator for pre-registration purposes. During the event, they will provide staff to manage the event, and furnish a 32 foot show trailer to support it.

The retail price of their quieter and cleaner model BR 500 Backpack Blower with the 65 cc engine is \$470. They are offering a 10 percent discount, and the District would provide a voucher worth \$123 per blower. The final price would then be \$299.95 plus sales tax. The proposal is for up to 200 commercial leaf blowers exchange program at a maximum cost of \$24,600. The District would not be obligated to purchase any leaf blowers that remain unsold at each trade-in event.

Lowe's Home Improvement Stores also carry a new and more quiet commercial leaf blower that has low emissions certified by the California Air Resources Board. The Lowe's proposal is similar to the existing lawn mower trade-in program in that it would be an ongoing trade-in program rather than an event. The ongoing program has the advantage that fewer district staff resources are needed to man the events, to manage event logistics and to recycle the old blowers. Participants in this program will be required to take their old gasoline-power leaf blower to the metal recycler to qualify for the voucher discount.

Because the ongoing program is less resource intensive for Lowe's as well, they are able to offer a competitive price for their commercial blower. The retail price for the Lowe's model blower is \$329, and Lowe's is offering an 18 percent discount to \$269. With a \$123 voucher from the Clean Air Fund, the final price would be \$146 plus tax. Regarding the Lowe's ongoing exchange program, staff will contact the Simi Valley store to see if they are willing to participate.

Mr. Stubblefield made a motion to recommend approval of both the Stihl and Lowe's Commercial Leaf Blower Exchange Program. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kromka. All Committee members present and participating via telephone voted in support of the motion.

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m..

Prepared by:
Stan Cowen, Air Pollution Control District Staff

Date: April 25, 2007

Member	Attendance *	New Committee Member: Manuel Ceja			Proposal for Lawn Mower Exchange Program			Proposal for Commercial Leaf Blower Program		
		Moved	Second	Vote**	Moved	Second	Vote	Moved	Second	Vote
Bayman	AE									
Forsythe	AE									
King	AE									
Kobayashi	P	X		Y			Y			Y
Kromka	P			Y			Y		X	Y
Montoya	AE									
Neiswender	P			Y		X	Y			Y
Poole	P		X	Y	X		Y			Y
Stubblefield	P			Y			Y	X		Y

Attendance - P(present),A(absent),E(excused)

**Vote - Y(yes), N(no), A(abstain)

APCD Staff:

Mike Villegas
 Chris Frank
 Stan Cowen

Guests:

Earl Rakestraw
 Steve Ishibashi