

# SD-SEQUEL



## San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable & Quiet Equipment in Landscaping

Date:

Subject: Request for Landscape Contractor to Use Electric and/or Manual Tools

Dear HOA Board Members,

We are concerned about the damage to human health and our environment caused by gas-powered yard maintenance equipment, and in particular gas leaf blowers (GLBs). Our website, [sd-sequel.org](http://sd-sequel.org), provides details.

After reading these and other materials on our website, we hope you are convinced of the urgent need to transition away from gas-powered tools. Existing alternatives are safer, quieter, and cleaner, save money, and are equally effective. Grounds maintenance contractors across the country are making the switch and reaping the benefits.

We understand that our property management company gets competitive bids for landscaping services when renewing the current contract. We would like to ask that in our next request for proposals from landscaping services, we require the vendor avoid the use of gas-powered leaf blowers (or that we give preference to vendors that do) and that we encourage vendors to use gas-free yard maintenance generally, from mowing to edging. Electric and manual tools can perform the same work, are more cost-effective, and do far less harm to ecosystems and human health.

We also ask that the HOA board ban the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by homeowners and their landscapers within our community.

Transitioning away from gas-powered equipment on our property will 1) improve residents' quality of life by eliminating dangerously loud noises and exhaust fumes; 2) improve landscape workers' health and our own by minimizing risks of respiratory illness and hearing loss, and 3) demonstrate a growing demand for safer, quieter, greener options for people and the planet.

Our website lists yard care services in our region that offer cleaner, quieter options such as electric leaf blower service, no-blow service, and completely gas-free full yard care service. Ideally, electric leaf blowers should emit no more than **65 decibels** of noise. The directory may be helpful as a source of leads for potential bidders.

We ask the HOA Board to consider our request and present any concerns that would prevent you from acting on it. We would be happy to arrange a meeting with SEQUEL members to respond to your concerns and suggest effective ways to make this transition happen.

Thank you,  
[NAMES]