

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Group Urges San Diego Air Pollution Control District to Seek Funds to Help  
Phase Out Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers**

SD-SEQUEL - San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, and Quiet Equipment in Landscaping  
San Diego, CA

<http://sd-sequel.org>

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**San Diego, CA, Tuesday, December 7, 2021** -- SD-SEQUEL, San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, and Quiet Equipment in Landscaping, was recently formed specifically to seek a transition from gasoline-powered lawn equipment to electric landscaping equipment. They decided to focus first on the noisy and highly polluting leaf blowers, which not only release a high amount of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change, but also pose a health to their operators because of toxic air contaminants and noise.

Today, the group urged the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (APCD) to seek funds from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish a trade-in or buy-back program for gasoline powered leaf blowers, which would take advantage of the funding for such programs that is being made available from the State. The letter is available at: [http://sd-sequel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SDAPCD\\_final\\_20211207.pdf](http://sd-sequel.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/SDAPCD_final_20211207.pdf)

The California Legislature recently passed AB 1363, which directs CARB to determine when it is feasible to ban all small off-road gasoline engines, and approved a \$30 million budget for CARB to aid in easing the costs of transition. But it could take years to get rid of the existing leaf blowers unless aggressive action is taken. SD-SEQUEL has drafted a proposed ordinance for local cities and the County Board of Supervisors to consider to prohibit the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers, which is the most polluting of landscaping equipment. Under the terms of the current draft, the prohibition would be effective only after a trade-in and/or buyback program is in effect.

Emissions and noise levels from gas-powered leaf blowers present a threat to public health. Smog-forming emissions from small off-road engines in California will surpass those from passenger vehicles this year. Equipment operators are overexposed to toxic fumes, respiratory irritating fine particulates, and unsafe noise levels at close range. The vibration from gas-powered leaf blowers is also known to cause nerve damage in the hands and arms of operators. Children, older persons and people with hearing disorders or neurological conditions like autism are especially vulnerable.

SD SEQUEL Co-Chair Ron Askeland said: “The health hazards posed by gas-powered leaf blowers are an environmental justice issue for both the equipment operators and our most vulnerable populations. Now is the time to act.”

### **About San Diegans for Sustainable, Equitable, and Quiet Equipment in Landscaping**

SD-SEQUEL, founded in 2021, seeks to protect worker health and the environment by advocating for the enactment of an equitable ban on gas-powered leaf blowers in all jurisdictions of San Diego County. Numerous local environmental, good government, and climate groups joined SD SEQUEL, as well as individuals. Supporters include The League of Women Voters of San Diego, San Diego Sierra Club, Clean Earth 4 Kids, Climate Reality Project-SD Chapter, Electrify Now, SD 350.org, and San Diego Audubon.

SD-SEQUEL Coleaders Ron Askeland and Carolyn Marsden are available for interviews about the transition from gas-powered to electric lawn maintenance equipment.

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