

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

For the Agenda of: October 28, 2004

To: Board of Directors, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

From: Larry Greene, Air Pollution Control Officer

Subject: **Rechargeable Electric Lawnmower Incentive Program**

Recommendation This report is before you to offer the following recommendations for your approval:

1. Approve the Categorical Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and
2. Approve the attached resolution authorizing both the use of up to \$50,000 of Civil Penalties/Mutual Settlement funds, if available, as well as appropriate budget amendments; and
3. Authorize the Air Pollution Control Officer to sign an agreement with Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and any other entities as necessary to carry out this program on behalf of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (District); and
4. Instruct the Clerk of the Board to transmit fully executed documents to all appropriate parties.

Purpose The purpose of the Rechargeable Lawnmower Incentive Program (a.k.a. Mow Down Air Pollution) is to reduce emissions from lawn and garden equipment use in the Sacramento region. In addition, this program increases public awareness about the negative effect lawn and garden equipment has on air pollution. An incentive, to help offset the cost of the electric technology, is provided to those interested in voluntarily turning in their gasoline-powered mower for a discounted rechargeable electric mower.

Report Back The 2004 Mow Down Air Pollution effort continued to present new challenges as we increased the number of reservations per hour in an attempt to move more mowers in the same amount of time in our second year at the Home Depot location. SMUD continued in the lead role of administering the day-to-day planning activities with the assistance of District staff.

Online registration was required again this year, which guaranteed the registrant a lawnmower (with trade-in) and thereby eliminating much of the lengthy wait times of past events. All available reservations were gone in less than one half hour of opening them to the public. However, not all funds for mower discounts were ultimately expended. As a result refunds were returned to each Working Group member in an amount proportional to that which they contributed.

Program results

Below is a summary of the program successes to date:

Mow Down Air Pollution Program Statistics

Program Year	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>Total</u>
Mowers Sold	783	1000	1186	1200	800	1192	478	598	7237
Recycled metal (tons)	27.1	34.5	46.7	43.6	28.9	42.6	13.6	19.3	256
Emissions Red. (tons)	8.7	10.2	12.0	11.6	9.0	11.5	4.6	5.8	73.4

Proposed 2005 Program

The program format will likely be quite similar to that of last year; however, specifics are unknown at this time. For 2005 we expect, once again, to have the event in early spring, at a site not yet confirmed. The Mow Down Working Group is scheduled to meet late in October to begin planning for a 2005 event.

Mow Down Program Coordination

With Board approval, the District will enter into an agreement with SMUD to provide \$50K and staff support as they take on all aspects of the program operations. In that role SMUD will take on the responsibility of overseeing all program components including solicitation for the manufacturer partner; marketing and other administrative details.

Estimated Funding Allocation

The District's method of funding the Mow Down Air Pollution program for 2005, pending Board approval, is from Civil Penalties/Mutual Settlement Funds collected by the District until or unless other sources are identified. Based upon commitments to date, below is the estimated funding allocation for the coming year:

<u>Program Component</u>	<u>Actual 2004 Funding</u>	<u>Estimated 2005 Funding</u>
Mower Discounts	\$ 104,052	\$ 115,500
Unused Discounts Refunded	\$ 12,337	----
Program Promotion/Operations	<u>\$ 21,606</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Total	\$137,995	\$ 130,500

Financial Partners

The Mow Down Air Pollution Program has and will continue to successfully leverage the District investment by partnering with various agencies in the air basin as budgets will allow. As of this writing, including \$50K each from SMUD and the District, only about \$120,500 of the estimated \$130,500 budget is confirmed. It is not yet certain if all past Working Group members will be participating again this year. However, given the estimated budget, 650 mowers sold will be our goal again this year.

Environmental review and compliance

The proposed lawnmower incentive program will not adversely affect either actual or potential emissions from sources. Residual gasoline and motor oil from turned in lawnmowers is considered hazardous waste. The Recycling Division of the Sacramento County Department of Solid Waste, Public Works Agency has agreed to collect and dispose of all hazardous waste in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

Pursuant to state CEQA Guidelines, the District's Environmental Coordinator finds that adoption of the proposed lawnmower incentive program is exempt from CEQA (General Exemption, Section 15061 (b)(3)). This exemption is allowed when it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the environment.

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Fiscal impact

Pending Board approval the fiscal breakdown for the Mow Down Air Pollution Program is outlined below. The actual amounts, not to exceed \$50,000, will be determined at a later date, as funds become available. The attached resolution authorizes the APCO to request the appropriate budgetary amendment.

Description	Total	Revenue Account	Funding Source(s)	Funding Amount
Mow Down Air Pollution	\$ 50,000	93934000	Civil Penalties/Mutual Settlement Funds	\$ 50,000

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Greene
Air Pollution Control Officer

Approved as to form:

Kathy Pittard
District Counsel

Attachments