



## COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS CATE

SIXTH DISTRICT  
CITY OF SAN DIEGO

March 10, 2020

Supervisor Kristin Gaspar, District 3  
and Supervisor Nathan Fletcher, District 4  
Board of Supervisors, San Diego County  
County Administration Center  
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Gaspar and Supervisor Fletcher:

Under former County Supervisor Ron Roberts' leadership, the County of San Diego's "Mowing Down Pollution" Lawn and Garden Trade-in Program successfully decreased harmful air pollution emissions by almost 50 tons annually since its inception in 1999. More than 10,000 gas-powered lawn mowers have been removed from households and replaced with zero-emission electric-powered units.

According to the County of San Diego, there is no Lawn Equipment Exchange event scheduled for 2020.

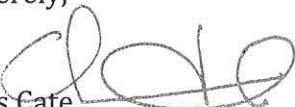
The California Air Resources Board has already begun reviewing long-term legislation to phase out gas powered leaf blowers and move toward electric and battery-operated alternatives.

Gas powered leaf blowers emit pollutants similar to cars and lawnmowers. Studies have shown that operating a gas-powered leaf blower for 60 minutes places as many toxins in the air as driving a small passenger car for 300 miles. Nationally, gas-powered leaf blowers have been restricted in more than 170 municipalities in 31 states. Currently, more than 60 California cities have restricted or banned gas powered leaf blowers.

To further this environmental effort, we respectfully request to partner with your offices to apply for funding from the County of San Diego's Air Pollution Control District for supporting an event specifically for exchanging gas-powered leaf blowers for zero-emission leaf blowers.

We look forward to hearing from your offices.

Sincerely,

  
Chris Cate  
Councilmember, Sixth District

cc: Supervisor Greg Cox, District 1  
Supervisor Dianne Jacob, District 2  
Supervisor Jim Desmond, District 5  
Bob Kard, Air Pollution Control District