

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Jesseka Rodriguez](#)
Subject: FW: MBARD update Re: "Leaf" blowers need to stop. Really, they do.
Date: Friday, March 21, 2025 1:54:05 PM

From: John Warshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: MBARD update Re: "Leaf" blowers need to stop. Really, they do.

******CAUTION:** This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Hi Manu,
I spoke with Tyler at MBARD today and asked about their policy going forward.
What I was told was that the MBARD grants would still apply for commercial landscapers and municipalities, but not residential users, even if a ban was enacted by SC BOD.
Considering that the main source of pollution is from commercial landscapers, this makes sense. Placing a ban would *not* prevent those landscapers from applying for up to 15 rebates a year each along with rebates for additional batteries and charging systems.
Municipalities would also be able to upgrade and receive rebates for their equipment that is non-polluting.
Could you please consider, with the BOD, to add this information when considering to reduce or totally eliminate 2 stroke landscaping equipment in the UN-incorporated areas of SC County and County facilities.
Thank you for your reply and please keep me posted if there is any progress towards this goal. Your time on this is appreciated.
Thanks,
John Warshaw

On Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 11:44:18 AM PDT, Manu Koenig <manu.koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov> wrote:

Hi John,

Roundup and leafblowers is a nasty combination. I hear the impact on your life loud and clear.

As you may know, I took the lead on introducing an ordinance that would ban gas powered leaf blowers in the unincorporated county. It got postponed because there's a bunch of rebate money available for people to turn in their gas powered blowers in exchange for electric one. The agency administering these rebates (Monterey Bay Air Resources District) said that they would *disqualify Santa Cruz County residents* if we passed the ban. I was shocked, and it's contradictory, but they haven't been willing to reverse their stance.

We could certainly consider moving forward with a ban on some or all county facilities. It's worth scheduling an update for the Board of Supervisors regardless. We'll work to get this on the Board's agenda and keep you updated.

Best,
Manu



Manu Koenig
Supervisor, First District
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean St, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-2200
manu.koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov

From: John Warshaw [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2025 10:42 AM
To: Manu Koenig <Manu.Koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov>; First District
<First.District@santacruzcountyca.gov>; Board Of Supervisors
<boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: "Leaf" blowers need to stop. Really, they do.

******CAUTION:**This is an EXTERNAL email. Exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click links from unknown senders or unexpected email.****

Manu, these leaf blowers need to stop. They are Not accomplishing anything useful and are annoying more than ever.

1) I don't see any benefit; they (CCL) are moving a few leaves around. They are blowing leaves

around the trees, what does this do?

2) They (CCL) are using 2 really loud, smoke producing 2 stroke leaf blowers, at full rate. They are blowing smoke and un-burned gas over here along with the dog feces that are now airborne.

3) This must stop. The person at the Sheriffs office who maintains the campus told me they would not use multiple blowers and stop spraying Round Up altogether. They Were spraying Round Up WHILE blowing! Please direct whomever is in charge of facility to discontinue these practices.

4) As a Neighbor, I like to be courteous and mindful of NOT annoying my other neighbors.

What the County is doing is completely the opposite of how a respectful neighbor acts towards his other, close by, neighbors.

5) I Have threatened to sue, as you know, and have a Judge determine if the annoyance rises to having an injunction ordered to stop the County from employing useless and asinine practices that cause loss of quiet enjoyment of one's property that has been taxed for the privilege of ownership in the County. I have the representation and means to follow through on this. I'm also angry enough to do this, considering the amount of aggravation this has caused. I am not pleased that I have spent so much time addressing this issue. The ONLY reason I have not sued the county is for fear of retaliation from landscape contractors who have expressed strong opinions on their 'right' to use these implements of uselessness and pollution. I don't wish to be a

target of any type of abuse, verbal or physical. Manu, and BOD. This has gone too far. There is NO reasonable answer why these blowers should not be banned. A handful of 'contractors' and real licensed contractors do not represent the majority of people who want these devices banned.

The only thing I will be able to do, if you all cannot understand and realize the need to ban leaf blowers is to leave SC County for good. There are other cities nearby that have done so, that are just as wonderful as Santa Cruz County.

I have made my point, very clearly. Please realize I would not have spent this time writing if I was not serious about my conveyance to you about this issue.

Yours truly,
John Warshaw