

**TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
STAFF REPORT**

**To: Mayor, Members of the Town Council**

**From: Jim Moore, Director of Planning & Building Services**

**Date: December 5, 2012**

**Subject: Discussion/Consideration of a petition received requesting that the Town adopt an ordinance to ban gas operated leaf blowers in the Town of Fairfax**

**RECOMMENDATION**

After discussion, direct staff on how you would like to proceed.

This could include directing staff to prepare a draft resolution of intention to refer this matter to the Planning Commission for a public hearing and/or preparation of a draft ordinance for Council consideration.

**BACKGROUND**

At the October 3, 2012 Town Council meeting during the public comments period Mr. Green who resides at the Benet House submitted a petition with background information to ban leaf blowers in the Town of Fairfax. These items are attached as **Exhibit A**.

**DISCUSSION**

The Town of Ross has adopted an ordinance restricting the operation of leaf blowers and it is attached as **Exhibit B**.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Exhibit A** – Petition to ban leaf blowers and reference material

**Exhibit B** - Town of Ross Ordinance (Section 9.20.030) restricting unnecessary noise

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
 YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
 FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
 IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR!

SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

735

MALIBU / *[Signature]* FAIRFAX  
*[Signature]* Traci a Feniers Fairfax

Laura Cox LAURA COX San Anselmo, CA  
 Anna Cox LORRA COX Bedford, MA

*[Signature]* MARTIN LOBO SAN ANSELMO  
 Frank M. Kimball Frank Kimball San Rafael

Jan Jamkin Loren Jamkin Fairfax  
 Paul Kohl *[Signature]* Fairfax

Robert G Wagner ROBERT G. WAGNER FAIRFAX

J Ramos JANET RAMOS Woodacre

*[Signature]* Stephen Wilde Fairfax

*[Signature]* KURT MILLER NOVATO

Cory Vangelder CORY VANGELDER Woodacre

Lori Farmer LORI FARMER Fairfax

*[Signature]* NEIL OSTER Mill Valley

750

EXHIBIT # A

RECEIVED

OCT 25 2012

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

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CITY

Fairfax, CA 94930

1195 Anthony Catudio  
anthony Catudio

Brian McElroy

FAIRFAX, CA 94930

STEPAN BOWIEK

Fairfax CA 94930

Therese Braundeter-Jacobsen

Fairfax, CA 94930

Gina Rieser Gina Rieser

Fairfax, CA 94930

EDENTHIBENT

Fairfax, CA 94930

Mike Rudolph

Fairfax CA 94930

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Fairfax

Emi Allen

Fairfax CA 94930

Adam Neville [Signature]

Fairfax CA 94930

ADAM YANOW

Fairfax, CA 94930

Nancy Prickett Nancy Prickett

Fairfax CA 94930

ANDRES EDWARDS

Fairfax,

[Signature]

FAIRFAX, CA 94930

[Signature]

Sonoma CA 94960

Inana Pier Inana Pierce

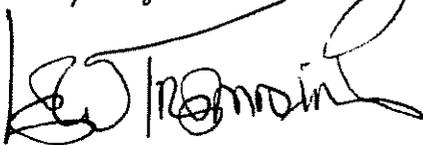
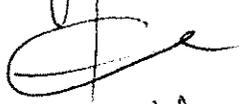
Fairfax, CA 94930

W.A. Haynes W.A. HAYNES

Nicasio, 94946

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1181	2nd St	LELA SHIELDS	Fairfax
	Denise D Lavaroni		San Anselmo
	Jessica Sude		Fairfax CA
	David Rogers	<del>Katherine Dombrop</del>	San Anselmo CA
	K. Dombrop		Fairfax CA
		LEW TREMAINE	FAIRFAX CA
	Jill Jarvic		Fairfax CA
	JAMES J. BROWN		Woodacre
189	Alta Sieg	METE STREIB	FAIRFAX, CA
	Amy Kahn	Amy Kahn	Fairfax Apt 204
		Benjamin Schley	Fairfax
	Richard N Lehman	Richard Lehman	Woodacre
	Anne Wick	Anne Wick	Fairfax
1194	Paul Duchesne	PAUL DUCHESNE	FAIRFAX

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1168

James M Brady  
[Signature]

Fairfax  
Fairfax

Farmax

[Signature] Janet Pullin

Sumner

Donna Senn Donna Senn

San Anselmo

Deather Sotnick Heather Sotnick

Fairfax

Jim McCracken [Signature]

Lagunitas

Josh Mooney [Signature]

Fairfax

[Signature] Matthew Erwin

Fairfax

[Signature] Daniel Heffernan

Fairfax

[Signature] NICHOLAS YALOW

Fairfax

Rexanel Roxana Vazquez

Fairfax

1180 [Signature] ... ELIZABETH GALBREATH

Pt. Reyes

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SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

19 1148 Aneice Laylor	ANEICE TAYLOR	WOODACRE
<del>D. Williams</del> Tamsin McVicker	DANE WILLIAMS TAM SIN McVICKAR	WOODACRE SAN ANSELMO
Maureen FitzSimons	Maureen FitzSimons	FAIRFAX
<del>La</del> Lance Lowell	DAVID BROWN Lance Lowell	FAIRFAX FAIRFAX
Kristin Pedersen	Kristin Pedersen	SAN ANSELMO
Andrew Wilson	Andrew Wilson	WOODACRE
Kyle Dry		SAN ANSELMO
Susan Peberthy	Susan Peberthy	"
<del>Nicole Smith</del> Dorothy Bentley	NICOLE SMITH Dorothy Bentley	FAIRFAX SAN ANSELMO
Cheryl Sperry	Cheryl Sperry	SAN ANSELMO
BETH SPERRY		LACIES Pt, CA
Erica Kalve	ERICA KALVE	FAIRFAX
JOE HANSEN	JOE HANSEN	FAIRFAX
Mirabelle Lemieux	Mirabelle Lemieux	SAN ANSELMO
Daniel Duffin	Daniel Duffin	Fairfax
LARRY STEINHART	Larry Steinhart	Fairfax
1761 Jim & Judy	Jon Geary	<del>San</del> San Rafael

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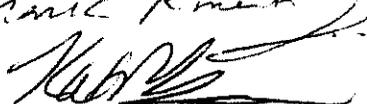
CITY

1134   
David Velo

Ukiah

Andy Sam  
Andy Savina  
Mark Rivera

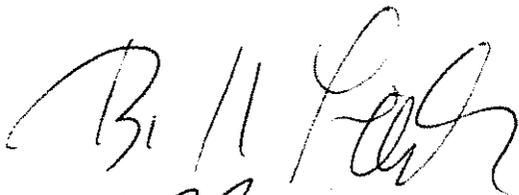
Ukiah, CA

Maria Rivera  


Fairfax

Kate Benediktsson

Fairfax, CA



L

FX 94930



Fairfax  
FFX



Wendy Fitz FX 94930

Bruce Steyer

Brett H. Steinberger

Fairfax CA 9493

Selma Garcia Novato CA 94909

Elizabeth Foy

Fairfax CA

James Fox P.O. Box 472

BOLINAS 94924 '94930

April Wilentz 130

Hidden Valley Lane  
San Anselmo CA - 94960

1147

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117	SIGN	NAME	PRINT	CITY
		Eileen Preadutti	Poddsly.	San Francisco, CA
		Eileen Preadutti	Eileen Preadutti	San Rafael CA
120		Eileen Preadutti	Eileen Preadutti	San Rafael, CA
		Nalisha Collins	Nalisha Collins	Fairfax, CA
		Yvonne Townsley	Yvonne Townsley	Fairfax, CA
		Kevin Johnson	Kevin Johnson	FAIRFAX
		Don Fair	DON FAIR	FAIRFAX
		Franz Miller	FRANZ MILLER	SAN RAFAEL
		Kim Slater	Kim Slater	San Rafael
		Frank D. Scibek	FRANK D. SCIBEK	LARKSPUR
		Michael P. Finn	Mike Finn	F.X.
		Ruth Kennedy	ROTH KENNEDY	Fairfax
		Marjorie Bean	Marjorie Bean	Fairfax
		Georg Fischer	G. Fischer	Fairfax
		Rene Voss	Rene Voss	SAN ANSELMO, CA
123		Rene Voss	Rene Voss	" " "

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117	SIGN	NAME	PRINT	CITY
		ELEN	Podislay.	San Francisco, CA
		Elen Prendible	Elen Prendible	San Rafael CA
120		Sen Prendible	SEN PRENDIBLE	San Rafael CA
		VIRGINIA	COUSINS	FAIRFAX, CA
		VIRGINIA	COUSINS	Fairfax, Ca
		KEVIN	JOHNSON	VERMONT
		DON	FAIR	FAIRFAX
		FRANZ	MILLER	SAN RAFAEL
		KIM	SLATER	San Rafael
		FRANK D.	SCIBEK, LARKSPUR	
		MIKE	FINN	F. X.
		ROTH	KENNEDY	
		MARJORIE	BEAN	Fairfax
		G.	FISCHER	Fairfax
		RENE	VOSS	SAN ANSELMO, CA
133		RENE	VOSS	" " "

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SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

1097 Paul 7A	Paul Scott	Woodburn
Rhonda	RICHARD COTRELL	FAIRFAX
Jerese Carter	Jerese Carter	FAIRFAX
1100 Host (Carter)	Thomas Carter	Fairfax
[Signature]	JOHN VIGAN	FAIRFAX
[Signature]	SCOTT WILSON	FAIRFAX
TI HARDIE	TRINETTE HARDE	FAIRFAX
Seth [Signature]		San Anselmo
Cathy Clagett	Cathy Clagett	Fairfax
Michael Clagett	Michael Clagett	Fairfax
[Signature]	PAUL ASPER	Fairfax
[Signature]	Kara Spencer	Fairfax
Mark Bud	Mark Buell	Fairfax
[Signature]	Melissa [Signature]	Fairfax
[Signature]	W. Samway	San Anselmo
[Signature]	L. Seltzer	Fairfax
Amy Jane Nixon	Amy Jane Nixon	San Anselmo
[Signature]	Camden Dard	Fairfax
Audrey Norlock	Audrey Norlock	San Anselmo
[Signature]	ANOBLE CHERRY	SAN RAFAEL

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SIGN NAME PRINT

CITY

10819

~~Ed O'Connell~~ Ed O'Connell

Fairfax

~~Alissa Carr~~

Alissa Carr

Point Reyes

~~Tom O'Neil~~

Tom O'Neil

San Anselmo

~~Debra McCall~~

Debra McCall

Fairfax

David R. Buller

David R. Buller

Fairfax

M. Kathryn Thompson

M. Kathryn Thompson

Fairfax

F. J. Costa

F. J. Costa

Fairfax

Lenny Kuperman

Lenny Kuperman

Fairfax

Caylin Alker

CAYLIN ALKERMAN

Fairfax

597 Kevin Ferris

Kevin Ferris

Fairfax

T. M. Gathwaite

T. M. Gathwaite

Fairfax

Kathryn Wong

Kathryn Wong

Fairfax

Elia Ganan

Elia Ganan

San Anselmo

096 Armando Ochoa

Armando Ochoa

Fairfax

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1063 TERENCE FRABY	Stacy	Nicasio
Adela Rockwell	M. K.	FAIRFAX
Bernice Coats	Beverly Carnuth	San Anselmo
at Hub	Alan Weiler	Lagunitas
K. Anon	John Darro	Fairfax
Alicia Sanchez	Alicia Stancl.	FAIRFAX
Hansen	HANSEN	FFX
C Smith	SMITH	Fairfax
Mary Kitchens	M. Kitchens	Fairfax
Miller, D.C.	WILLIAM T. CAREY	FAIRFAX
Schlosser	L. Schlosser	San Rafael
Torch	T. Wilson	Fairfax
William Killeen	Michael Killeen	Forest
Peter Funk	Peter Funk	Fairfax
Anna Caron	Anna Caron	Fairfax
Matthew Rodriguez	MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ	Fairfax
H. Bennett	H. Bennett	Fairfax
Raky McKinsey	Raky McKinsey	Fairfax

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1046 Mark Lull	MARK GRUBBS	FAIRFAX
<del>Kia Ma</del> Kamala	Kim Madsen	Fairfax
Wendy Heneghan	Wendy Heneghan	Fairfax
Dorothy Cox	Dorothy Cox	Fairfax / Wood
D Nelson	Deb Nelson	Fairfax
Daneman	Daneman	Fairfax / Kool
<del>Rh</del>	Richard Snipes	Fairfax
<del>Shulong</del>	Gina Longo	Fairfax
<del>T/M</del>	P.K. Longo	San Antonio
<del>Sumner</del>	JULIAO ALLEN	FAIRFAX
Melinda Mahl	Tonya Robertson	SA
Amelia Ford	Simon Gibbs	Fairfax
T. Wood	Melinda Mahl	SA
<del>John</del>	AMELIA FORD	Fairfax
<del>John</del>	T. Woodman	FAIRFAX
1062 John	Diana Perdue	Fairfax
...	Josh Workman	Fairfax

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1030 Eleanor Keith Hill ~~Eleanor Keith Hill~~ Fairfax, CA 94930  
E.P. Far E.P. Far Fairfax, CA 94930

Connie Venuso - Connie Venuso FAIRFOXC. 94930

Matt Gogl Matt Gogl Fairfax Ca 94930

Barbara How Gray Jennifer Jenkins Fairfax CA 94930

Anthony Jenkins Fairfax 94930

Glenn M. Swar 70 Dene Ct. Fairfax

Jack M. Campbell 42-A Tamalpais, Fairfax 94930

Robin Brown 116 Tam Alameda San Anselmo.  
Julie Souser 1341 San Anselmo Ave S.A. Ca.

Jane Zeise 80 Woodland Rd. Fairfax 94930

David Bates 10 Spruce Road Fairfax 94930

Catherine Liddell Cath Liddell 225 Cascade Drive  
Fairfax

Margaret Margarita Aleman Fairfax

Alison Jane Fairfax

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SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

Catalina Glazebrook 67 Rocca Dr, Fairfax CA  
~~Catalina Glazebrook~~  
019 ~~Blanco~~ Paul Porras 67 Rocca Dr. FAIRFAX CA 94930  
Mark Fiore 41 BOTHIN FAIRFAX, CA  
Chelsea Donnan 41 Bothin Fairfax CA  
Samuel Ewing 33 Merwin Ave. Fairfax CA  
Maree de Saiz A Bennett Ave  
San Anselmo  
94960  
Judy Hall 22 Davenport Ct  
San Rafael  
John Holman 110 Redwood Rd, SA 94960  
Joëlle Levy 13 Ridge St 94960  
Harvey Weisfeld 25 Glenholme Ave, Toronto, ON, M6H3A8  
Philip Cardillo 13 Ridge Road 94450  
Michael Keel 160 Wilerac Ave 94930  
Fairfax  
Emily Mackley Fairfax, CA

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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
L. Troublla	L. TROUBLA	FAIRFAX
B. ALICKE	B. ALICKE	FAIRFAX
Diego	D. ALICKE	FAIRFAX
MJ	M. ALICKE	FAIRFAX
R. Kaye	R. KAYE	San Anselmo
D. Barot	D. BAROT	Berkeley
S. Gandy	S. GANDY	Oakland
Kelly Lawry	KELLY LAWRY	Fairfax
Adriana Volunera	ADRIANA VOLUNERA	Berkeley
Lynn Ferry	LYNN FERRY	COULTERVILLE
Susan Keith	SUSAN KEITH	Santa Clara
M. Lucchesi	M. LUCCHESI	PT REYES station
Mike McDowd	M. McDowd	San Rafael
S. Dimmi	S. DIMMI	N. ACO

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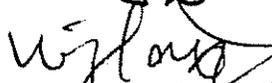
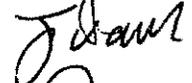
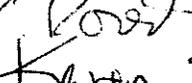
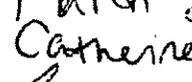
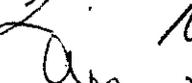
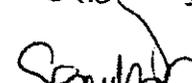
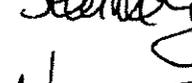
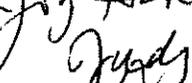
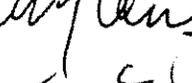
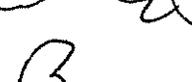
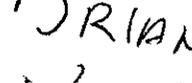
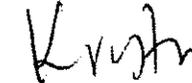
SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
986 Anne	ANN KIRKANE	FARFAX
	TOM HANCEY	FARFAX
	JOANNA HELFMAN	Larkspur
	ARTHUR MEADER	"
	CATHRYN YONGUE	SAN ANSELMO
	CATHY MCKENNA	SAN ANSELMO
	KYLE PETERSON	SAN ANSELMO
DAVID PEREZ	DAVID PEREZ	Petaluma
Devin Maloney		Kigali
Marshall Reiss		Seattle
Munne Bredem	WAGNMAN	San Francisco
Luigi Costa	George Costl	Inverness
998 Tracy B. Cuth		
Jim Normandi		WOODBROOK
DAVID CUNNINGHAM	DEL	Boulder Creek
1001 Julia Horner	Julia Horner	Boulder Creek

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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
	JACK GILFER	FAIRFAX
	Valarie L. Weite	San Rafael
	Stuart Weite	" "
	Tara Sullivan	Novato
	Matthew Oglander	Fairfax
	Maryann O'Sullivan	Fairfax
	Greydon Uchida	Greenbrae
	MaryAnn Gillespie	Greenhvale
	Jim Clark	Pleasanton
	Debbie Clark	Pleasanton
	CYNTHIA WHITMAN-BRADLEY	FAIRFAX
980	Arthur Whitman Bradley	FAIRFAX
	Galen A Ipke	Fairfax
	GABRIELA HOPF	Fairfax
	MARK FAGAN	FAIRFAX
	MITCH FIELD	FAIRFAX
	Matthew Green	Fairfax
985		

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SIGN	NAME	PRINT	CITY
	Wylona	Minglon rd	313 FFX
	Juan Carlos	Juan	829 FFX/AB
	Rosemarie	Rosekranz	FFX
	Rosemarie	Rosekranz	T+X
	Karen	Sotth	FFX
	Carherine	John	San Rafael
	Amy	Sean	CHICAGO
	Sean	Majeur	Fairfax
	Sean	Majeur	Fairfax
	VINCE	AROUJO	NOVATO
	Joy	Hansen	Fairfax
	Judy	Fog	San Bruno
	Marylene	Kalish	San Rafael
	Marylene	Kalish	Sausalito
	BRIAN	OLIVA	San Anselmo
	Krystal	Piron	Fairfax
	Krystal	Piron	Fairfax
	Kristine	Hirschfeld	Fairfax
	Sean	Peter	

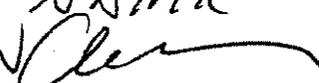
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SIGN NAME PRINT	CITY
Sam Edelman	San Anselmo
Angelo Clute	Inverness Park
Janis Anzalone	San Anselmo
DANIEL KRATZGER	SAN ANSELMO
ANTON NESS	SAN FRANCISCO
Sean Lyell	Inland
Carolyn Finley CAROLYN FINLEY	Panama
Virginia A. S. L.	Fairfax
Susan R. Nordstrom Susan R. Nordstrom	San Leandro
Jan Rook	Petaluma
ROSCOE BORN	Nicasio
Brian Lochten	Sebastopol
Lisa Martz	Petaluma
Steven Sparks	Fairfax
Reed Purdy	Sedona
New Cherry	Sedona
John King	Fairfax
Jan R. Mearns	Fairfax
Victoria Pano	SAN ANSELMO
Scott Snow	San Francisco

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	SIGN NAME PRINT	CITY
712	<i>[Signature]</i> Ben Reser	Petaluma
	<i>[Signature]</i> Elizabeth Vacher	San Anselmo
	<i>[Signature]</i> Dan Goo	FAIRFAX
	Stephen Ferrelbrat Stephen Ferrelbrat	Beard Ave.
	Danaan Sonest	Petaluma
	Graham I-wii	Fairfax
	<i>[Signature]</i> Carleton Eyster	Davenport
	Padma Gordon	FAIRFAX
	Helene Larrodé	fairfax
	Clair Sung Claire Sandberg	visitor, Brooklyn, NY
	Moh Poo Melissa Lyne	fairfax
	Sukim Bernick	San Rafael
	<i>[Signature]</i> Paul Sullivan	FAIRFAX
	Steve Jordan	FAIRFAX
	Doug SNYDER	San Rafael
	MARYLYNETTE COATES	Fairfax
	Jamal Parker	fairfax
	4105 Palm Dr #114	fairfax
	SHEILA BRYANT	P.R.S.
	<i>[Signature]</i> Doug Snyder	
	San Rafael	
	<i>[Signature]</i> Marg Imhoff	
	San Rafael	
	<i>[Signature]</i> Paul Baker	
	San Rafael	
	<i>[Signature]</i> de Bryant	

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE  
FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS  
IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR

SIGN	NAME	PRWT	CITY
	CARMEN 	CARMEN CHING	FAIRFAX

{	Michael Stragnolo		
	Michael Stragnolo		San Rafael

KMc	Kenin Meni	Fairfax
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Jorge Vega	Jorge Vega	Costa Rica
------------	------------	------------

	Daniel Dunne	Fairfax
---	--------------	---------

 19/10/12

Bennett Franz  
4900 Wood rd  
San Anselmo

<del>108</del> Jenny Forkel	Jenny Forkel	Fairfax
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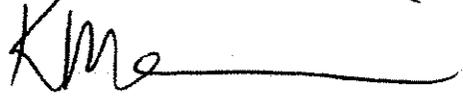
<del>Jenny</del> 	DANIEL HÜENER	SAN ANSELMO
--	---------------	-------------

111 Daniel S  Fairfax #108

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
 YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE  
 FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS  
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SIGN	NAME	PRWT	CITY
	CARMEN 	CARMEN CHING	FAIRFAX

{	Michael Stragnolo		
	Michael Stragnolo		San Rafael

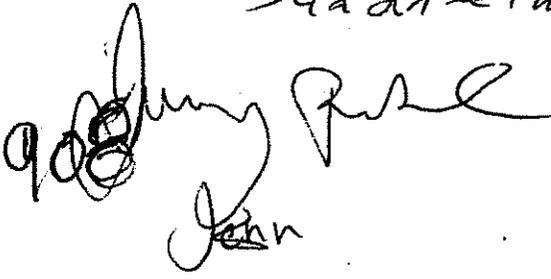
KM 	Kenin Meri	Fairfax
--	------------	---------

Jorge Vega	Jorge Vega	Cotati
------------	------------	--------

	Daniel Dunne	Fairfax
---	--------------	---------

 19/10/12

Bennett Fraz  
 4900 ...  
 San Rafael

	Jenny Forkel	Fairfax
---	--------------	---------

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE, FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS) IS BRING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR.

885 J Powell Jasper Powell Fairfax CA 94430

B Yoann BOYER Yoann San Rafael

C DNGLAS CHRIS DNGLAS FAIRFAX

~~ANNEA MORAN FAIRFAX~~

~~RA~~ LANGUNITAS MILL VALLEY

C. Selman San Anselmo

892 Tone Hope Inverness

~~Scott Territo Fairfax~~

895 Wilson Melbostad Fairfax San Anselmo

ALBERTO GUTIERREZ FAIRFAX

898 Susan Lacerra Fairfax CA

Lauren Arrow Lakewood

Melissa Phillips Fairfax

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
 YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
 FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS  
 IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR

SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

888	Tim Monbach	Tim Mapp	San Anselmo
15	Mary Ellen Marshall	Mary Ellen Marshall	Kentfield
883	[Signature]	Grant K Rauscher	Kentfield
	[Signature]	KURT BIRKHANN	SAN RAFAEL
	Ken [Signature]	Ken Christensen	Freedom, WY
	Carole [Signature]	Carole Warner	Wardrobe, CA
	[Signature]	Elizabeth Foster	Fairfax, CA
	[Signature]	RICHARD RICHMOND	SAN ANSELMO
	[Signature]	DAVID YOUNG	SAN RAFAEL

~~Yes I'm A Red~~

[Signature]	Carol Fagan	San Geronimo
[Signature]	Tim Frazzetta	San Geronimo
[Signature]	Matt Potter	San Anselmo
[Signature]	John Howell	Fairfax
[Signature]	Gregg Chiribarian	San Rafael
[Signature]	Fairfax	
[Signature]	Sean Schertel	Fairfax

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR.

746 J. Zalk SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132 J. Zalk

Nancy McInnis GREENBRAE MARIN CA 94904

Andy McIntyre LAUREL CA 94939

George Zalbil SAN RAFAEL 94901

Janel Krikorian FAIRFAX 94938  
Kecy Murphy SAN JOSE 95120

JA  
Cam McLaughlin SAN ANSELMO CA 94960

Christine Sorensen FAIRFAX CA 94930

Thomas Sorensen FAIRFAX CA 94930

Jenny Dudgeon Fairfax CA 94930

Beth Dudgeon Fairfax, CA 94930

Colin Hensley San Rafael, CA 94901

Trisha Christensen SAN ANSELMO, CA 94960

Nigel Crain SAN ANSELMO, CA 94960

Emily Sheridan Kentfield, CA 94904

Carol Schmid Novato, CA

Diane Pinky SAN RAFAEL

Patricia Miller Fairfax CA 94930

Lara Wolfe FAIRFAX CA 94930

Laura Margret Fairfax, CA 94930

867

**PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS  
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**SIGN NAME PRINT**

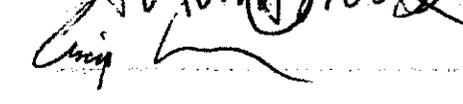
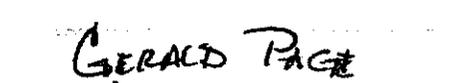
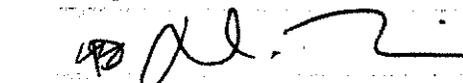
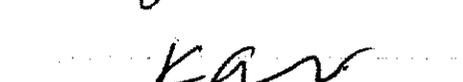
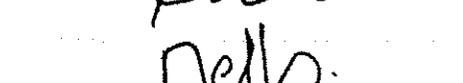
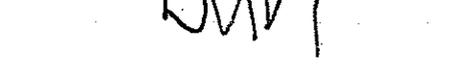
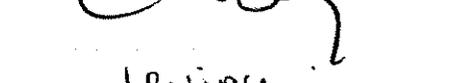
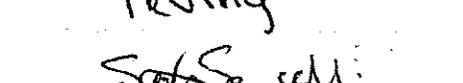
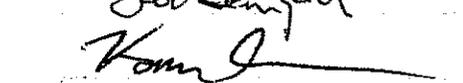
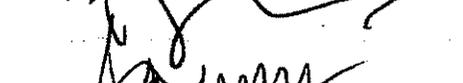
**CITY**

825 <del>[Signature]</del>	GARY DIEDRICHS	NOVATO CA
Peggy Diedrichs	Peggy Diedrichs	Novato CA
Laurel Withrow	Laurel Withrow	Woodacre CA
<del>[Signature]</del>	DAVID MEYER	FAIRFAX CA
John Harris	JOHN HARRIS	FAIRFAX, CA
Hobart Owen	Hobart Owen	Fairfax, CA
Jenna Peterson	Jenna Peterson	Fairfax, CA
KARINA BRASSO	<del>[Signature]</del>	LAGUNITAS CA
Elin Oordt	Wendy Oordt	San Anselmo, CA
BRIAN ELDER	Mr. Gray	SAN RAFAEL CA
Kathy Taylor	Kathy Taylor	Fairfax, CA
GREG STAN	<del>[Signature]</del>	FAIRFAX CA
Jennifer Hitchitts	D. Whitty	Fairfax CA
Robert [Signature]	Robert T. [Signature]	San Rafael CA
Cara Chambers	Cara Chamber	Fairfax, CA
Tyler Gannon	Tyler P Gannon	Berkeley, CA
Mary Fleming	Mary Fleming	Fairfax
George Khoyri	George Khoyri	Fairfax
David Kastin	David Kastin	Brooklyn, NY
Laura Kastin	Laura Kastin	BKlyn N.Y.
45 Noel Butternew	Noel Butternew	Fairfax

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
806 Eileen Walsh	Eileen Walsh	Mill Valley
	PHILIP SALAVERRY	Fairfax
	Dawn Bunda	Fairfax
	Sara Popovich	Larkspur
	Douglas Brindley	Berkeley
	Roberto Martin	Oakland
	Heather Swana	San Anselmo
	SUSAN Duck	San Rafael
	James Bill	San Anselmo
	D. Barber	San Rafael
	Wes Gibbs	San Anselmo
	Jen Rund	Fairfax
	Mireya Quiric	Fairfax
	Ted Davidson	Nicasio
	Karen Grace	Fairfax
	Riley Kane	Fairfax
	Stan Baker	Larkspur
	Erin C. Murrell	Fairfax
	Jessica Clifford	Fairfax
	Barbara Rozon	Fairfax

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SIGNATURE	NAME PRINT	CITY
	AUTUMN DANCE	FAIRFAX, CA
	Craig Wheeler	FAIRFAX, Ca
	GERALD PAGE	AVON PARK FL
	Daniel Wilson	Fairfax, CA
	Karam	Fairfax CA
	Delia	Fairfax CA
	Cully	Fairfax CA
	Irving	Fairfax
	Seth Sengell	Windsor Ca.
	Kerry	San Rafael, CA.
	MICHAEL VEFFER	FAIRFAX, CA
	JEREMY PERREAU	SAN FRANCISCO, CA
	Josh Moberg	San Francisco, CA
	MIRZA KWAN	FAIRFAX
	John Ginsburg	San Rafael
	DANIEL EASTES	SAN ANSELMO
	Kathleen Warridge	" "
	Jen Joseph	Fairfax

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
768	Amy Caulfield	Fairfax
19	Eileen Hydes	Lafayette
19	Samuel L. Hippen-Millard	Fairfax
19	Kelly Krill	San Anselmo
	LAWRENCE	BERKELEY
	Olivia Janku	Kentfield
	Rita Dodson	Sausalito
	Brian Fischer	Fairfax
	Busan R. Lund	San Anselmo
	Morgan Hauge	San Francisco
	Kim Pipkin	San Anselmo
	Susie Bennett	
	Phyllis Frizza	SAN ANSELMO
	CARY JOHNSON	San Anselmo
	Wetske van Erp	Fairfax
	Rinchen Gedde	Fairfax
	William L Ireland	San Anselmo
	Jim Reitzel	Novato
	Mary Ann Kraus	Franklin, OH
	A.W. Graham	SF.
	Hank Goernsey	Fairfax

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SIGN NAME PRINT

CITY

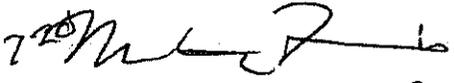
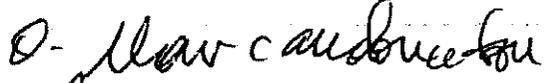
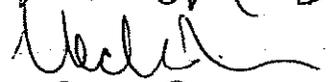
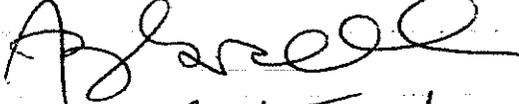
MIKE MANFREDI		FAIRFAX
Anne Manfredi		Fairfax
Wm Henry Kyburg		Fairfax
Elizabeth Kyburg		Fairfax
Lisa Girardi	LISA GIRARDI	Fairfax
Jelicia Beach		San Rafael
Bary Beach	Bary Beach	San. Rafael
Mattia Gonzales	Mattia Gonzales	San Anselmo
Wes Middleton	Wes Middleton	Fairfax
San Gabriel	San Gabriel	Fairfax
KENN NIRSCHBERG	KENN NIRSCHBERG	Fairfax
LAURA NEELY	LAURA NEELY	FAIRFAX
JEFF KERR	JEFF KERR	FAIRFAX
Jenny Love	Jenny Love	Fairfax
DESIRÉE CORBA GE	DESIRÉE CORBA GE	SAUSALITO
Nick Roberto	Nick Roberto	Fairfax

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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 FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS  
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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
706 Alex Sech	Alex Sech	Fairfax
[Signature]	Tom Fallon	San Anselmo
[Signature]	JOHN APE	INVERNESS
[Signature]	JOHN OWEN'S	FAIRFAX,
[Signature]	James Burt	INVERNESS
[Signature]	James Harvey	Mill Valley
[Signature]	Colin Franklin	Turlock
[Signature]	Madame McKenzie	Redding CA
[Signature]	John Hersey	SAN ANSELMO
[Signature]	GERR WOODMAN	SAN ANSELMO
[Signature]	James Steere	Mill Valley
[Signature]	Chris Greene	Fairfax
[Signature]	ERNEST MENDOZA	GREENBRAE
[Signature]	CESAR CARO	Novato

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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SIGN NAME PRINT CITY

-  Nathan Farris San Anselmo
-  O. Marcantonato BOULDER, CO
- Alden Bouington Alex Fairfax, CA
-  W. Ulrich San Anselmo CA
-  Alexist Hendrickson Fairfax CA
- Carly Fitzgerald Carly Fitzgerald Fairfax CA
- Steven C. Cutler Steven C. Cutler Inverness, CA
- Regina Carey REGINA CAREY San Rafael CA
-  Christha de Cossio Fairfax, CA
- Daglas Fuller Daglas Fuller Petaluma, CA
-  Rahman D'Amato Fairfax, CA
- Carrie Kutchins Carrie Kutchins INVERNESS CA
-  Stuart Kutchins Inverness
- Jesse Zbaras Jesse Zbaras Fairfax
- Juan Miguel Hernandez Juan Miguel Hernandez SAN RAFAEL

524  
46  
570

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
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SIGN	NAME PRINT	CITY
	Nate Cherrier	Fairfax CA
	Devon Johnson	Fairfax Ca (94930)
	John Caruso	Sausalito CA 94967 Fairfax CA

696 Mark Dr Mark Gasaway 225 2nd St E.  
SOMAoma, 95476  
Lloyd Madden Eugene, OR # 26

Dirk Coijlaas 60 PASTOR AVE FAIRFAX CA 94930

IVAN DAVID Fairfax  
Alan Ken 444 Scribble  
Fairfax CA  
FFX

Neil van der Plas San Rafael CA  
Nancy Binzen Woodacre  
Juan Tapia San Rafael  
Mike Sears San Rafael

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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672 Natalie Chapman

~~Natalie Chapman~~

FAIRFAX, CA

HOBART BARTSHIRE

~~Hobart Bartshire~~

19 HILLSIDE FAIRFAX  
 53 Taylor Dr, FAIRFAX

Alfred Anger

~~Alfred Anger~~

321 CYRIL  
 Bellingham WA

676 Dean Smith  
 MARY SHIFFLET

MARY SHIFFLET

170 CHEVON RD FFA  
 Woodlark

KARE VAMER

~~Kare Vamer~~

SAN RYDIEL  
 106 MANOR RD

Jay Potter

~~Jay Potter~~

FAIRFAX CA

ILAN BLEISER

~~Ilan Bleiser~~

ROBERT GASCW

~~Robert Gascw~~

Holley Shafer

Holley Shafer

Fairfax CA  
 San Anselmo, CA

Gio Licvano

~~Gio Licvano~~

Bill Lesconier

Leschi

FAIRFAX, CA

PHILIP & MELINDA  
 ANDERSON II

Philip & Melinda

FAIRFAX, CA

686 Melinda Anderson

Melinda Anderson

FAIRFAX, CA

Denise LaBrie

Denise C. Labrie

Fairfax, CA

Kevin Johnson

~~Kevin Johnson~~

Fairfax, CA

MARY BELBOONIA

~~Mary Belboonia~~

Fairfax, CA

Chris Whinn

~~Chris Whinn~~

Fairfax CA

691 Phillip Folk

~~Phillip Folk~~

Fairfax CA

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
 YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
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Mike Jackson  
 Clayton  
 W  
 M

Mike Jackson San Rafael  
 Clayton Kirsinger San Rafael  
 Mike Gordon  
 Nicole Farkas

Fairfax  
 Fairfax

639  
 636  
 Guadalupe Alvarez  
 C. E.

Nancy Clough  
 Guadalupe Alvarez  
 Bruton Eala

Stanford  
 San Rafael  
 Inverness

JoAnne Harris  
 Christophe Jammet

JoAnne Harris  
 Christophe Jammet

New York City  
 NYC

641 - Kathy Flores  
 Babette Shine

Rich Gurt  
 Kathy Flores

Fairfax  
 Fairfax

Cliff Park

Babette Shine  
 Cora Bizzuto

Fairfax  
 JW AOPAC

Vicki Bornstein  
 Kathleen Thomas

Vicki Bornstein  
 Kathleen Thomas

Fairfax  
 Fairfax

D.B. Guidinger

Wagner

Fairfax

Yoshiko Yamaguchi

Yoshiko Yamaguchi

Fairfax

ABBY CANNINGHAM

SAN ANSELMO

Jayne Meyer

Jayne Meyer

Fairfax

Dana Noland

DANA NOLAND

WOODBRIDGE

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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- 618 - John Cox Fairfax  
6 Edmund Vasquez San Anselmo  
Tami Miller San Anselmo  
Savannah Whitman Fairfax Savannah Whitman  
Monique Topzand Monique Topzand  
Cory Topzand Ivy Topzand  
David Colardo FAIRFAX DAVID COLARDO  
Shilpa Kamat Sebastopol  
Liz Saitama Palo Alto  
Arthur Pezdi  
ERIC INGERSON San Anselmo CA  
Sierra Salin FAIRFAX 94930  
Michelle Nidder 95060  
Robert Licht Woodacre 94973  
Robert Licht Woodacre 94973  
Auss Licht Woodacre 94973  
Sherry DeLucia 94930  
Tatiana 94936  
94730

~~Signature~~

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE, FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS) IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR.

590 Serra Fern Fairfax Srinafenn  
 ANN PETERSON Ann Peltan Sanjos  
 James Baum  
 Uriel Sutt Norwich, CT  
 Fairfax S.F.  
 KIMIZOFF ANTIUCH CA  
 NOVOTRAS

Christa Senterf 25 alto ave San Anselmo CA

20 Relyct Fawcok CA  
 Suzette Chaumette San Leandro, CA

Petrucci de Clavre Oakland, CA  
 Tenzin Chomphel 3203 Yosemite Ave El Cerrito CA 9453

Pablo Soto San Leandro, Ca.  
 Guy de Chodus Oakland CA

Arbor McCauley Greenbrae CA  
 Matthew Edward Fairfax CA

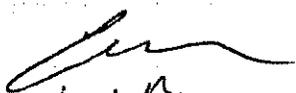
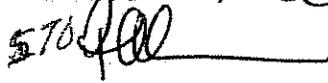
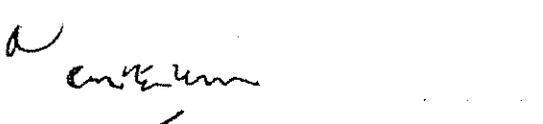
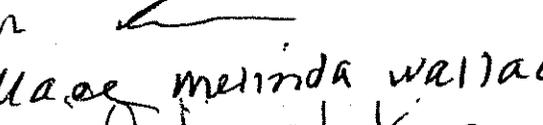
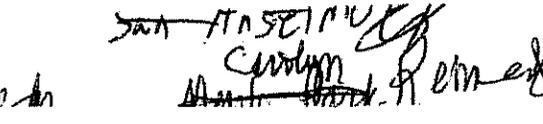
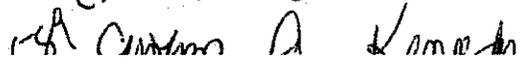
AYANON School San Marcos CA  
 TOD ALVORD San Rafael

Conrke Cardenas Lagunitas  
 Conrke Cardenas

REBECCA Harriott 4 TAMAL VISTA, CORTE MADRE

Claire Gilbert Claire Gilbert FAIRFAX 94925

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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Andre Fina	ANDRE FINO	SAN ANSELMO
Stelish Benoit	Melinda Benoit	Fairfax
	Coby Friedman	Fairfax
Mark Boyce	MARK BRUNZONIS	S.A.
Jim Pine	J Brook	FX
	THOMAS SELLERS	FX
Walter Kassoway	Walter Kassoway	FX.
Margie Kurzman	MARGIE KURZMAN	San Rafael
Robin Brunner	Robin	Tandem
Quane Elgin	Dudue Elgin	Fairfax
STANLEY DIEVE		Fairfax
Mark Dieve		Fairfax
Russell Woods		Robert Perle
Saeri Denison-Woods		Robert Park
Brad Schwan	Clyde	Fairfax
Clyde Taylor		Fairfax
Anne Siembieda	melinda wallace	Fairfax
CHRIS WEAR	Selena Martinez	Fairfax
SIOBHAN AMANN	MARK ARSCHFIELD	SAN ANSELMO
		Novato
Stephanie King		San Anselmo
Liana Levi		Ment Park
		

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John Harris 89. PACHE FAIRFAX CA  
Jill Romano 600 POWERS RD FAIRFAX J.M. ROMANO  
Andy Smith 2750 GAYLOR, RICHMOND CA 94804  
J.P. 214 The Alameda San Anselmo CA 9496  
Yiff Out 214 The Alameda San Anselmo, CA 9496  
J.P. PB HILLSIDE DR. FAIRFAX CA 94930  
Dorinda Harris 14 Marin St San Rafael CA 94901  
Ann Owen 180 Center Blotly FAIRFAX CA 94930  
Frank 10. BOX 5 SAN ANSELMO CA 94960  
Laddie Popston 1304 GRAND AVE, SAN RAFAEL, CA  
Vicky Treat PO 139 FAIRFAX CA 94930 94901  
ELENA Booth 53 Taylor Dr Apt. 303 FAIRFAX, CA 9493  
ELENA Booth  
SUSAN EZRA 80 TAYLOR DR FAIRFAX CA 94930  
Jimmy Imwily 1212 A St Francis Dr N. Blvd SAN ANSELMO  
John Knowles 1212+ S. Francis Dr. Le Pl CA 94960  
Amy Maloney 49 Marzotta Rd Karpis  
RICK WART 822 VANDOLA DR. SAN RAFAEL 94903  
Phaedra Swan Jane. wolfgang. @ mac.com  
Kathleen Kyles Angelika@Crybaby.com  
Mark Long 206 Cascade Dr FAIRFAX  
MARK Gershon

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FUMES, DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR.

<del>Kathy</del>	Kathleen C. Donnelly	Fairfax
Mr. & Mrs. [unclear]	Michael McCarty	Fairfax
Joe McCarty	DACE McCARTY	Fairfax
[unclear]	Jan Dvorak	Woodacre
[unclear]	Joy Halverson	Woodacre
Sam Weinstein	SAM WEINSTEIN	Berkeley
Naomi Kanaya	Naomi Kanaya	BERKELEY
[unclear]	ERIC AUSTHALER	FAIRFAX
[unclear]	Liz Jimenez	Sonoma
[unclear]	BOBBI STOCZYNSKI	FAIRFAX
Bobby Stoczynski	FRANK McLISTER	"
Frank C. Michalski	SAN FRANCISCO	
J.A. Foran	IS99 FRUSTUCK	FAIRFAX
Bill Miles	[unclear]	Mill Valley
Bill Miles	[unclear]	Mill Valley
John Evans	[unclear]	Fairfax
Krista Magolda	[unclear]	
Scott Lilly	[unclear]	
[unclear]	JAMES CONWAY	SA.

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
YARD BLOWERS WITH THEIR ASSOCIATED NOISE,  
FUMES & DUST INCLUDING BRAKE DUST (ASBESTOS)  
IS BEING STIRRED UP INTO OUR BREATHING AIR.

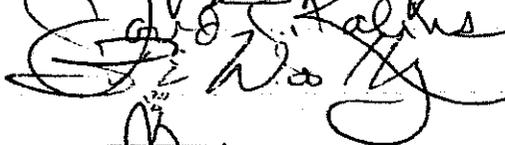
- 221 Opelia Franz, Bennett House FFX
- 221 ~~Christine Healy~~ B. BENNETT HOUSE FFX
- Jana KUNZ #8 Taylor Truifop FFX
- L Holtzclaw #117 Lillie Holtzclaw FFX
- ~~Jan~~ Jan Rolano #206 BENNETT FFX
- 512 Aase Christensen #201 Bennett FFX
- Ed O'Neil #202 BENNETT FFX
- #305 mallet Lyg BRNNRTT FFX
- 227 Ben Miller BENNETT HOUSES FFX
- 227 Barbara Polanco BENNETT HOUSES FFX
- Bruce Flaherty 1334 FOURTH ST. San Rafael 94901 #12
- 518. Donald D Ayres 23 Davenport Ct, San Rafael
- Michael Owen 32 Wimbledon Lane, Fairfax 94930
- Jerry Baker 418 Bolinas Rd - RAIVON 94920

*(Circled signature)*  
Georgina Pagan

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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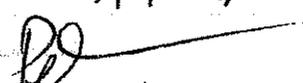
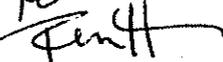
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 9 Arroyo rd Fairfax  
 Megan Gallagher 9 Arroyo rd Fairfax  
 Vijay Singh (VIJAY SINGH)  
 Bryan Woolley 1928 Poplar Ave Richmond  
 Nava Jundich FFX

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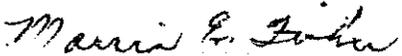
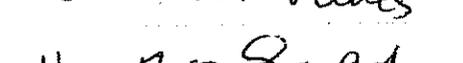
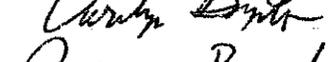
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 Josh Butler  
 Peter Brastow San Anselmo  
 Ruah Wild - G'Brae  
 Clifton Bate Berkeley

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#101

 Marnie E. Fisher  
 Stephanie Harris  
 Aiden Van Voorhees FFX  
 Heather Gould  
 Paul W. Boynton  
 Marnie Strickland  
 K. O'Connell

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MEGAN O'CONNOR

MEGAN O'CONNOR

10 Claus Circle, Fairfax, CA  
 11 Chester Ave Fairfax 94930  
 11 Chester Ave. Fairfax, CA 94930  
 FARM GUERNEVILLE, CA 95444  
 10 OCTAVIA ST. SAN RAFAEL CA. 94  
 97 Park Rd Fairfax CA 94930

Corte Madera, CA. 94925

PETITION TO BAN THE USE OF FUEL POWERED  
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Daniel Model, III ~~107 Pica Ct. Fx 94930~~  
STEPHEN LEIPER ~~120 SCENIC RD FAIRFAX 94930~~  
Loni Ashton ~~780 Bolinas Rd 94930~~  
Laura Bourbon ~~33 Marwin St #2 FX 94930~~  
Wayne ~~173 Castcove Rd FX~~  
Wendy ~~33 Marwin St #2 94930~~  
Lyn Matson ~~6 Marinda Ct Fairfax 94930~~  
Peter Kilham ~~53 Taylor Dr. Fairfax 94930~~  
Heidi Perry ~~8 Rocca Dr Apt. 1 Fairfax 94930~~  
Damion Brown ~~24 Bolinas Rd FAIRFAX 94950 #~~  
Jimmie ~~127 Pipev Court Fairfax 94930~~  
Johnny ~~1075 Rowan Dr~~  
Desiree DeNunzio ~~51 Tamalpais Rd Fairfax CA 94930~~  
Nana Lopes ~~780 Lucardillas~~  
Alma Lopes ~~HEENA LOPES~~  
Sue ~~Sean Hogan~~  
TOM COETTO ~~416 Talbot Ave Albany CA 9472~~  
DIAM Tiller ~~200 BOLINAS ROAD #41 FX~~  
Pat Tyler ~~FAIRFAX CA 94930~~  
ROBIN DELL ~~325 ROWLAND BLVD~~  
Robin ~~NOVATO, CA 94947~~  
Robin C. Dell  
6691 Sir James Drake 94933

OCT 30 2012

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# Greenwich CALM.org

## Greenwich Citizens Against Leafblower Mania

### Health Hazards

[« Back to Health Hazards « Older Entry | Newer Entry »](#)

### Health hazards of leaf blowers



Posted by GreenwichCalm on April 1, 2011 at 4:35 PM

## Regarding the issue of the health impacts of leaf blowers, consider that:

- **The World Health Organization recommends noise levels of 55 decibels or less, 45 decibels to meet sleep criteria. A leaf blower generally measures at least 70-75 decibels at 50 feet away and far higher at close range.**
- **The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that noise levels over 75 decibels can cause hearing loss and are harmful to human health.**
- **According to the California Air Resources Board the types of air pollutants emitted when using a gasoline-powered leaf blower for half an hour are equivalent to those emitted from 440 miles of automobile travel at 30mph average speed. Compared to an average large car, one hour of operation of a leaf blower emits 498 times as much hydrocarbons, 49 times as much particulate matter and 26 times as much carbon monoxide.**
- **A Grand Jury convened on the subject of leaf blowers in San Luis Obispo County, CA concluded that:**

They also dry and destroy the fragile top soil, hurting the environment." She found that "if landscape contractors [operating leaf blowers] are not protecting their ears with earplugs or earmuffs, they are routinely exposing their ears to sounds above 85 decibels--the level experts agree may threaten hearing over a period of time."

- Steve Zien, a professional landscaper and Executive Director of Biological Urban Gardening Services (BUGS), an international membership organization of primarily professional landscapers, states:

BUGS has opposed the use of leaf blowers for many years for a variety of reasons. There are many hidden costs when utilizing blowers regularly. The leaf blower is perhaps the most over-used and inappropriately used landscape tool. Autumn's tremendous amount of organic debris that requires collection might be considered appropriate use of this tool. However, the weekly routine of blowing abuses the soil and damages landscape plants while the noise creates ill will from neighbors and clients alike.

**The landscape maintenance industry should join BUGS and take a positive approach to blower bans. Old fashioned leaf raking can be a renewed service that their business could provide. It could be used as a selling point: no noise and environmentally sound too! Approach it right and they could charge the client an appropriate fee for this service, especially if blowers are banned. This could even become a major selling point for some companies. It could lead to business growth and the hiring of more personnel to mee the demand. Environmentally sound landscapers should be able to turn this kind of legislation into a positive for their businesses, making it work to their benefit.**

## Noise and auditory damage

Gasoline powered leaf blowers create noise levels of 90-100 decibels at close range, and exceed the EPA's recommended maximum noise level of 80 decibels even at 50 feet. Many Greenwich residents in the high density neighborhoods regularly endure the noise of neighbors leaf blowers from less than 50 feet away! Repeated and/or sustained exposure to high noise levels damages the nerve endings in the ears and contributes to loss of hearing and deafness. Children are particularly vulnerable. Doctors at the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center have documented the harmful health impact of leaf blowers on children, and have written letters in support of the leaf blower ban we are seeking.

The World Health Organization recommends ambient noise levels of 55 decibels or less (Environmental Health Criteria 12: WHO).

## Noise and mental/emotional distress

The narrow frequency bandwidth of the noise emitted by leaf blowers, the whine, the pitch, is a particularly disturbing sound. The sounds these machines make regularly provoke people to rage. The constant use and over-use of leaf blowers reduces the productivity of our citizens (many people work at home), disturb sleeping infants and children, and they cause rise in blood pressure, adrenaline, heart rate and nervous stress. To put it mildly, they drive people crazy.

Noise also degrades our quality of life. It reduces communication. It interferes with our ability to enjoy being outdoors, or taking walks, or working or playing in our own backyards. It reduces property values, as Greenwich realtors have testified to the Health Board. It is an uncivil and selfish act to subject one's neighbors to a half hour or hour of deafening noise every week in order to have a pristine lawn area.

## Worker safety and OSHA

The noise levels experienced by the operators of leaf blowers, are dangerous to their ears and can cause permanent hearing loss. The Occupational Health and Safety Act (OSHA) requires hearing protection for any workers using equipment that generates noise over 85 dB. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) "there is an increasing predictable risk" of hearing damage from noise above 75 dB. According to the American Academy of Otolaryngology, half the wearers of hearing protectors do not get the expected benefit, due to improper fit or failure to wear them continuously. And many workers do not even wear protection at all. Not surprisingly, there is evidence of unusually high levels of hearing loss in landscape workers. Using leaf blowers commercially may violate OSHA.

Breathing the particulate matter stirred up by and the emissions from the leaf blowers is also detrimental to worker health. Many landscape workers in Greenwich are operating leaf blowers a large part of every day, with undeniable adverse effect on their hearing and their lungs.

## Air pollution and emissions: carcinogens

Leaf blowers contribute to smog and ozone pollution, a problem particularly in the warm months (which is the season we are seeking to ban their use). The inefficient two stroke engine on a leaf blower often releases as much as 25% of its raw, unburned gasoline in its exhaust, according to studies by the Air Resources Board of the CA EPA. The exhaust contains unacceptable levels of harmful hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, both pollutants which contribute to smog and other health problems.

4

Reducing the use of leaf blowers helps reduce levels of ozone, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matter as regulated by the Clean Air Act. When the City of Los Angeles reduced the number of leaf blowers operating in the LA area by 1,500 it was estimated to eliminate up to 14 tons of harmful emissions annually.

Among the substances blown into the air and respired are heavy metals, pesticides, and other carcinogenic substances. In addition, the exhaust from the two stroke engine also contains benzene and other carcinogens.

Dr. Barry Boyd, a Greenwich Hospital oncologist has informed the member of the Greenwich Board of Health that:

Air pollution connected with leaf blowers worries him. He believes gasoline powered engines are the reason CT is the number one state in the country in incidences of breast cancer. He stated that one leaf blower, in one hour, pollutes the same amount as 40 cars idling on a lawn. "Connecticut has one of the highest rates of cancer," he said. "It is critical that we eliminate pollution from gasoline-powered engines where we can. Summertime is when Connecticut air is most polluted. A summertime ban on leaf blowers makes sense to me," he told the members.

## Particulate matter

Leaf blowers are a large contributor to particulate matter in our air, especially in summer, when particulate pollution is at its worst. The high velocity jets in leaf blowers blow into the air many unwanted and toxic elements. Various pollutants include dust, salt, lead, arsenic, mercury and other heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, fungicides, rodenticides, herbicides, fungi, dirt, ash, mold, spores and fecal matter. Approximately 5 pounds of particulate matter per leaf blower per hour are blown into the air and can take hours and even days to settle. These particulates aggravate allergies. They also contribute to cardiac conditions such as arrhythmia and can cause heart attacks. Moreover, they contribute to pulmonary diseases such as bronchitis. Please visit EPA's web site about the health impacts of particulate matter: [www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution](http://www.epa.gov/air/particlepollution).

A Grand Jury in the Superior Court of California issued findings about the toxicity of leaf blowers and the health hazards associated with them. Contact us for a link to this study.

## Spread of pulmonary disease, asthma, and allergies

The dust, pollen, spores and other particulate matter spread by leaf blowers exacerbates asthma, emphysema, and allergies. Children and the elderly are the most vulnerable segments of the

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population and are particularly impacted by the use, and abuse, of leaf blowers in our community. Nine doctors from the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center wrote a letter supporting other town's restrictions on leaf blowers because of these and other health concerns. Contact us for a link to this study.

Among the particulates thrown into the air by leaf blowers are dried fertilizers, and fecal and urinary matter of animals, including mice and other rodents. These substances have been linked to the spread of various respiratory diseases.

## **Destruction of gardens and landscapes through compaction, dessication and loss of topsoil**

Leaf blowers blow a concentrated stream of hot air onto plants at 200 mph--higher speed and force than a hurricane. As professional landscaper Steve Zien says: "wind speeds in excess of 180 mph are currently blasting landscapes throughout [the country]. Leaves are ripped from branches, new growth and developing flowers are damaged and precious topsoil is blown away. Nurseries and Extension Agents are receiving more plant samples from gardeners indicating a tornado or hurricane devastated their landscape plants."

Winds stress the fragile living material of plants, causing dehydration, burned leaves, and the suspension of photosynthesis and other natural plant functions. Overall growth is also slowed. Natural openings in teh leaves that allow for the exchange of oxyen and carbon dioxide are sealed shut. Disease spores laying dormant on the soil or fallen debris are blown back onto plants where a little moisture can renew their cycle of infestation and damage. Blowers effectively distribute disease spores, weed seeds and insect eggs through the landscape and onto neighboring landscapes.

Blowers create a disposal problem. Most landscapers do not compost their debris; they put it into sanitary landfill which are being rapidly filled to capacity. The organic material is a gardeners best friend and should remain on site to be recycled back into the landscape.

Another hidden cost of leaf blowers is that they deprive flowers, shrubs, and trees of live-giving mulch. Without this natural blanket, erosion, water evaporation and the spread of disease all become problems. Mulch, when not blown away, creates a favorable growing environment for plants and beneficial organisms both above and below ground while adding nutrients to the plants' root zone. When mulch is removed to the compost and renewed annually many soil borne diseases are kept to a minimum.

## Disturbance of small mammals, birds, and insects, and their habitat

Noise, toxic fumes, and hot air blown at hurricane force are all taking a toll on animals and birds in our landscapes. Even beneficial insects like earthworms and bees are being damaged by the assault of the leaf blowers most yards in Greenwich are subjected to. Nests and other habitat are disturbed, animals and birds are driven away by noise. Pollen, sap, and other natural plant substances are dessicated or simply sent airborne. Every living creature in the range of a leaf blower is harmfully impacted.

## Non-point source water pollution

Another problem is the common practice of many landscapers to blow debris into the street, or into a neighboring property. When it is pushed into the street it often clogs storm drains and gutters, contributing to inefficient functioning of these drains and to increased flooding and erosion. At other times, the debris enters the drains and moves toxins and other unwanted material into our creeks, rivers and ultimately Long Island Sound, creating a significant new source of non-point source water pollution.

The City of Santa Monica, CA forbids the use of leaf blowers because it recognizes the link between the toxic substances, including heavy metals and chemicals, which are pushed into gutters by leaf blowers and which end up in the already polluted Pacific Ocean and the rivers and bays that connect with it in the Santa Monica area.

## Overall carbon footprint and energy usage

Leaf blowers accomplish collection of material inefficiently. They use fossil fuel in place of human effort and muscle, at the expense of our environment. Their two stroke engines use gasoline exceptionally inefficiently, spewing 25% of it unburned into the air through their emissions. Why use an engine to do what your arms can do more efficiently and with no harmful effects to humans, animals, or the environment? Americans are increasing in obesity and becoming more and more sedentary, in part because we no longer do even the simple, and rewarding tasks, or tending our own gardens, cutting our grass ourselves, or raking autumn leaves.

A University study showed that Americans spill 17 million gallons of gasoline per year refilling lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chain saws and other lawn and garden equipment. That's more than the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska. Every time a leaf blower is refilled, toxic fumes called Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) can be released into the air. Spilling and overfilling equipment can also result in the release of VOCs. When VOCs react with the sun, ground-level ozone or smog is produced. Ozone can affect not only the lungs, but many other organs and systems of the body. Children, the elderly, and people with chronic illness are the most susceptible. Gasoline spilt on lawns can seep into the groundwater and waterways, affecting drinking water and polluting rivers, lakes, and oceans.

Categories: None

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Post a Comment

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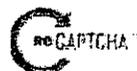
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8

"Considering the evidence... **the health hazards citizens are exposed to from two-cycle leaf blowers outweigh the possible benefit they provide.**" The Grand Jury went on to recommend that all cities within that county initiate a phase out of leaf blowers.

- Dr Barry Boyd, an oncologist at our own Greenwich Hospital, testified to the Town of Greenwich Board of Health in 2005 that:

Air pollution connected with leaf blowers worries him. He believes gasoline powered engines are the reason CT is the number one state in the country in incidences of breast cancer. He stated that one leaf blower, in one hour, pollutes the same amount as 40 cars idling on a lawn. **"Connecticut has one of the highest rates of cancer," he said. "It is critical that we eliminate pollution from gasoline-powered engines where we can. Summertime is when Connecticut air is most polluted. A summertime ban on leaf blowers makes sense to me,"** he told the members.

- Every doctor affiliated with the Mt. Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center in New York City signed a letter submitted on April 22, 2010 by the Mt. Sinai Hospital supporting proposed restrictions on leaf blowers in Eastchester, NY. The Mt. Sinai team of doctors stated that:

**"Leaf blowers pose multiple hazards to human health. Children are the most susceptible members of our population to these hazards because they breathe more air per pound of body weight per day than adults and thus inhale more of any pollutants that are thrown into the air by this equipment. Children's vulnerability to the health effects of this equipment is further magnified by the fact that they are passing through the stages of early development, and thus their lungs, ears, eyes, and other organ systems are inherently more sensitive to environmental hazards than the organs of adults."**

The doctors went on to elaborate in great detail the specific hazards associated with leaf blowers, emphasizing the categories of: airborne pollutants, noise, and eye hazards.

- The American Lung Association of New York State submitted a letter in 2008 which "commends the towns and villages across the Lower Hudson Valley that took a positive step to protect lung health by passing leaf blower ordinances."
- June Kaminski, MSN, PhD candidate, studied leaf blowers and published an article entitled "Leaf Blowers Threaten Health." Dr Kaminiski discovered that: "the particulates spewn into the air by leaf blowers contribute to and aggravate respiratory and allergy problems, as well as add a significant amount of pollution."

Post Comment

9

## 9 Comments



Reply earth goddess

11:06 AM on August 30, 2011

greenwich ct and bedford ny have a leaf blower epidemic-mania and must ban leaf blowers for everyone's sanity and health. manicured lawns are not sacred and leaf blowers are evil. human sanity is more important than a few narcissitic lawn fanatics. the only way to ban the leaf blowers is to contact your town government EVERY TIME LEAF BLOWERS ROAR. call and email every time a leaf blower breaks the silence. eventually the town phone and email lines will be overwhelmed to the same extent that leaf blowers overwhelm residential neighborhoods with noise and dust.



Reply earth goddess

11:21 AM on August 30, 2011

Bedford and Greenwich need to work together to BAN leaf blowers. Every time leaf blowers break the silence in Greenwich call town of Bedford SUPervisor and your complaint will be heard: 9146666530 Supervisor@BedfordNY.info That's democracy. every time leaf blowers break the silence in Bedford we will call town of greenwich to complain, citing the above health risks, to help greenwich residents ban leaf blowers. you can also report illegals with blowers to irs or boycott landscaping companies that use leaf blowers.



Reply leaf girl

10:03 AM on August 31, 2011

you have already scientifically documented all the reasons to ban leaf blowers. NOW, it's important that, as residents, you withhold part of your tax payments from your town until they ban leaf blowers to adequately provide for your health and safety. Clearly leaf blowers are dangerous to our health, and towns are supposed to ban health dangers- you would not be allowed to store rotten garbage outside for a month in the summer heat which would make neighbors sick. Similarly, noone should be permitted to use leaf blowers, which make people

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sick: asthma, suspended carcinogens, pesticides, hanta virus, noise induced stress, and anger from being subjected to constant, unnecessary noise. Leaves<sup>^</sup>, grass clippings, and natural debris never bothered anyone, and their removal is not necessary for anyone's health. Leaf blowers are used only to create an artificially manicured, vanity landscape for a selfish few. Ban them: withhold taxes, report landscapers to irs-they all use illegals to blow, video leaf blowers and post on you tube, and operate a leaf blower in town hall during your calm meetings. noone needs even a small lawn-there are 100's of other beautiful landscapes that permit leaves.



Reply leafy sticks

10:25 AM on August 31, 2011

You should read the Leave Leaves Alone facebook site run by Cornell and Bedford ny. Every time someone writes a comment that suggests that they ban or reduce leaf blower usage in Bedford, the lady running the site erases it, in an undemocratic fashion. It turns out that Cornell does big business with the turf industry, leaf blowers included, and that Leave Leaves Alone is only about promoting and selling a new lawn mower that mulches leaves. LLA entirely avoids the points about the health hazards of blowers: they need to be banned and restricted to provide for a healthy environment. Anonymous comments against leaf blowers should be permitted as many operators are hostile towards anyone who politely asks them to stop. Bedford clearly has a big money agenda to favor leaf blowers over human health. The operators of leaf blower landscaping companies get themselves on town boards to further their noise making and quick profit making agenda-hire illegals, pay them nothing, report little to irs, enjoy the rest. corruption.



Reply corrine umwaltschutz

10:34 AM on September 06, 2011

Add another Health Hazard : after Fukushima's nuclear detonation ejected radioactive 'fleas' that blew around the Earth, radioactivity was detected in rainfall, lakes, and soil all across the Eastern US. That means that everytime a landscaper uses a leaf blower, radioactive particles will be suspended and you will unnecessarily inhale charged radioactive particles that will bind to your lungs. Then, you will gradually get lung cancer. How many times per week is the average greenwich person exposed to fugitive, radioactive leaf blower dust clouds? Every neighborhood has a leaf blower operating every day of the week, often several times a day, so the exposure could be 15-20 times per week, 400 times per year-all unnecessary exposures. You're already inhaling a few particles from fukushima every day-why inhale hundreds every day just to have a lawn? Totally Ban leaf blowers or restrict leaf blowers to 1 day per week, per zone of town so people can reasonably take health precautions. for example, Mondays- leaf blower day in downtown, tuesdays-edge of town to Merrit PKWY, Wednesdays- Merrit to Greenwich Audubon, etc. There's every reason why affluent GRWCH can afford to ban blowers: consult

with your AUdubon on native, beautiful landscaping that thrives when leaves are left. There are hundreds of landscapes, other than toxic lawns, that don't require power tools and look attractive. A landscape of edible blueberries and fruit trees with leaves on the ground is more attractive than a boring lawn. Try a new landscape and enjoy the silence and fresh air! People will look more favorably upon you, as a neighbor, for keeping the neighborhood quiet, leafy, with fresh air, and even a taste of rurality, rather than suburbany.



Reply Christine Carpenter

03:20 PM on December 05, 2011

Greenwich Calm could expedite the leafblower ban by putting a petition on the PetitionSite. Check out and sign the Leaf Blower Ban and Restriction in Bedford on the petition site. You can sign in support of Bedford and Bedford residents can sign in support of Greenwich to maximize the signatures.



Reply Dan Delventhal

01:50 PM on March 14, 2012

I started a company to eliminate the noise and pollution of mowers and blowers. Its MowGreen.US and we offer services in Greenwich. Please visit us at [www.MowGreen.US](http://www.MowGreen.US). MowGreen Gets the Gas off the Grass. Keeping it Reel, Clean & Serene. - Dan "QuiMowte" Delventhal, Man of LaMowGreen



Reply centrifugal pumps

08:31 AM on July 21, 2012

There are various impacts of using leaf blowers regarding health. Your post contains nice information about the health hazards of leaf blowers. This is a good post, which features worthwhile information.

centrifugal pumps



Reply centrifugal blowers

01:55 AM on July 26, 2012

There are various impacts of using leaf blowers regarding health. Your post contains nice information about the health hazards of leaf blowers. This is a good post, which features worthwhile information.  
centrifugal blowers

### Categories

- **noise and auditory damage (0)**
- 

### About

Our mission is to reduce the use of leafblowers in Greenwich. One important action we are taking is seeking the Town of Greenwich to ban leafblowers between April 15-Oct 15 within the Town.

We also hope citizens will individually reduce their use of these machines by choosing instead to rake or sweep and to ask hired gardeners or landscapers to do the same. Each of us can ask our school, our clubs, our work places, and any other organizations we are involved in to also reduce their use of leafblowers.

We want to reclaim the enjoyment of our back yards. We want to be able to again enjoy walks or bike rides along the streets of our town without being sandblasted, deafened, and asphyxiated as we pass by the multitudes of leafblowers. It's time to take Greenwich back!

April 27, 2011 is International Noise Awareness Day!

"In recent years rigorous studies on the health consequences of noise have indicated that noise elevates the heart rate, blood pressure, vasoconstriction and stress hormone levels, and increases risk for heart attacks. These reports prove that even when we've become mentally habituated to noise, the damage it does to our physiologies continues unchecked." George Prochnik, Editorial page, New York Times, May 2, 2010

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OCT 25 2012

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## LEAF BLOWER POLLUTION HAZARDS IN ORANGE COUNTY

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### SUMMARY

The widespread daily usage of two-cycle gasoline engine leaf blowers in the cities and unincorporated areas presents a health hazard to all citizens of Orange County. The hazards are four-fold:

- Toxic exhaust fumes and emissions are created by gas-powered leaf blowers. Exhaust pollution *per leaf blower* per hour is the equivalent of the amount of smog from 17 cars driven one hour and is localized in the area of blower usage.
- The high-velocity air jets used in blowing leaves whip up dust and pollutants. The particulate matter (PM) swept into the air by blowing leaves is composed of dust, fecal matter, pesticides, fungi, chemicals, fertilizers, spores, and street dirt which consists of lead and organic and elemental carbon. About five pounds of PM per leaf blower per hour are swept into the air and take hours to settle.
- The quantity of pollution products that are injected into county air. The total amount of pollutants injected into the environment by blower usage in the county is significant. The ARB calculates that leaf blowers inject 2.11 tons of combustion pollutants per day into Orange County air. Leaf blowers in the County sweep twenty tons per day of small size particulate matter into the air.
- Blower engines generate high noise levels. Gasoline-powered leaf blower noise is a danger to the health of the blower operator and an annoyance to the non-consenting citizens in the area of usage.

In light of the evidence, the Grand Jury determined the health hazards citizens are exposed to by the use of leaf blowers outweigh the questionable economic benefit blowers may bring to the cities and the County. The Grand Jury recommends that the cities, school districts, community college districts, and the County cease using gas powered blowers in their maintenance and cleanup operations.

## INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

The focus of this study was to describe and assess the health hazards caused by gasoline-powered leaf blowers used in Orange County. The Grand Jury assessed the air and noise pollution introduced into the county by gasoline-powered leaf blowers (hereinafter-called leaf blowers).

The purpose of this report is to recommend that cities take actions to reduce health hazards presented by leaf blowers. School districts and community college districts should do likewise since children are most vulnerable to the pollution and noise caused by leaf blowers. The Board of Supervisors should take similar action in the unincorporated areas. Additionally, such actions would improve the quality of life in Orange County.

## METHOD OF STUDY

The Grand Jury gathered information and data from a variety of sources including:

- Leaf blower manufacturers
- California Air Resources Board (ARB)
- South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- American Lung Association
- Consumer Reports magazine
- Various newspaper and magazine articles
- Personal activities and observations

Quantitative assessments were made of the nature and scope of leaf blower pollution to the Orange County environment. The contribution of an individual leaf blower was easy to determine. The Grand Jury utilized data obtained from the Air Resources Board, the EPA and the Air Quality Management District to establish the *total* pollution contributed by leaf blowers to the county environment.

## BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

**T**wo-cycle gasoline-powered leaf blowers were introduced into the United States in the 1970s. By 1985, 75,000 blowers were sold and by 1989, 464, 000 were sold. California leads the nation in the number of leaf blowers used, estimated to be in the millions, and sales are growing at 6 to 8 percent a year.

The city of Laguna Beach bans the use of leaf blowers, and over a dozen other California cities have done likewise. Health and quality of life concerns related to leaf blower use became an issue in California cities prior to 1975.

### LEAF BLOWER OUTPUT

Leaf blowers are usually powered by a 2-cycle gasoline engine that provides the motive power for a high velocity stream of air guided by a tubular duct toward the leaves or debris to be swept or blown. The blower unit is either carried by hand or back-mounted on the operator depending on the size of the engine and the power desired. Generic output characteristics (averaged over several manufacturers) include:

#### LEAF BLOWER NOISE OUTPUT

TABLE 1

	Hand Held	Back Pack
Noise level at blower	>95 dBA	>90 dBA
Noise level @ 50 feet	>65 dBA	>75dBA
Airjet velocity at nozzle	~180 miles per hour	up to 250 miles per hour

'dBA = acoustic decibels, frequency-weighted measures of audible noise volume or power used in noise analysis.

### HAZARDS FROM BLOWER OPERATIONS

There are four major health hazards from the use of leaf blowers. They are

- exhaust pollution
- particulate pollution
- quantity of pollutants
- noise

### EXHAUST POLLUTION

One gasoline-powered leaf blower generates as much exhaust pollution in one hour as would 17 cars traveling slowly. Cars disperse their pollutants over long stretches of road, while a blower concentrates its pollutants in one neighborhood. Two-stroke engine fuel is a gas-oil mixture that is especially toxic compared to automobile emissions.

Exhaust pollution from two-cycle engines is a large contributor of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM). The particulate matter from combustion is small in size (2.5 or microns or less).<sup>2</sup> Combustion exhaust particulate matter remains suspended in the air for hours—sometimes days—and is easily assimilated in the lungs. The EPA and ARB state that such PM can increase the number and severity of asthma attacks, bronchitis and other lung diseases and reduce ability to fight infections. Those particularly effected are children and the elderly.

<sup>2</sup> PM2.5 microns refers to particulate matter size diameter in millionths of a meter or microns. PM2.5 particles are 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller. PM10 particles are 10 microns in diameter or smaller and include PM2.5 particles. A PM10 particle is about 1/17<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair.

### **PARTICULATE POLLUTION**

The airjet generated by blowers with velocities of 185 miles per hour or more spreads dust, dirt, pollens, animal droppings, herbicides and pesticides into the air. The effect lasts for hours on particulate matter that is 10 microns in diameter or smaller. The ARB has estimated that each leaf blower entrains (puts into the atmosphere) 5 pounds of particulate matter per hour about half of which is 10 microns or smaller. The EPA and ARB state that such particulate matter can create the same health risks as does the exhaust pollution.

### **QUANTITY OF POLLUTANTS**

The ARB calculates that leaf blowers inject some 2.11 *tons* of combustion pollutants per day into Orange County air. These pollutants contain organic gases, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides and exhaust-size particulate matter (PM2.5) as described previously. Additionally, twenty *tons* per day of small size particulate matter (PM10) are swept into the air by blower airflow.

### **NOISE**

Noise interferes with communications, sleep, and work. The EPA claims noise degrades quality of life by impairing social interaction. It also reduces work accuracy and creates stressful levels of frustration and aggravation. The average blower generates noise that measures 65 to 75 dBA or more at 50 feet, and even louder at close range. Leaf blowers are often used fewer than 50 feet from non-consenting people. Neighboring homes may be occupied by home workers, retirees, day sleepers, children and the ill or disabled. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends general outdoor noise levels of 55 dBA or less, and 45 dBA or less for sleeping. Thus, a 65-decibel leaf blower would be 100 times too loud<sup>3</sup> for healthful sleep. Blower noise can, and probably does, impair the user's hearing. A blower generates upward of 95 decibels of noise at the operator's ear (see Table 1 above). Office of Safety and Health Administration requires hearing protection for noise over 85 dBA. Hearing protectors as worn in the field provide only a fraction of the attenuation needed for hearing protection. There is an increased risk of hearing damage and deafness from repeated exposure to noise above 75 dBA. Deafness caused by noise is irreversible.

<sup>3</sup> A decibel change from 45 to 65 dBA, is a 100-fold change in volume.

## **ALTERNATE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES**

Rakes, brooms and electric blowers are alternate equipment that can perform leaf cleanup tasks. The first two have been in use since antiquity and have been proven performers since that time. Rakes and brooms are quiet and consume no resources. They produce minimal dust and little debris into the atmosphere and no pollutants from the power source. Electric blowers are a recent technical innovation that minimize engine pollution, lessen noise, but leave intact the hazards associated with airjet entrained particulate matter.

## **ECONOMICS**

It has been argued by leaf blower operators that the use of rakes and brooms would cause cleanup jobs to take up to twice as long to complete. This allegation is not supported by facts. For example, the city of Claremont decided not to use leaf blowers (1990) in the maintenance of city property. They quantified the increase in workload using rakes and brooms as 1/16 over using blowers, an increase of about 6%. Other jurisdictions banning leaf blowers have experienced no increase in cleanup-job hours.

## **COMPLIANCE IN CITIES BANNING LEAF BLOWERS**

The Grand Jury surveyed four cities that banned or partially banned leaf blowers in or near Orange County.

1. Los Angeles (population ~3.6 million) banned gasoline powered leaf blowers on July 1, 1998. The city reported that compliance is good despite the fact that the police enforce violations as an infraction, which puts them as a low priority. Alternatively, the Public Works Department uses street enforcement inspectors as citing officials. Citizen participation provides license plate numbers and times of violations for subsequent violation citations.
2. Santa Barbara banned gasoline leaf blowers and regulated other types of blowers since 1997. The city Parks Department incurred a one-time cost of \$90,000 out of a budget of \$4 million (2.25%) to replace equipment and has seen little or no additional impact on city cleanup.
3. Laguna Beach has banned all types of blowers since 1993 and enjoys 95% compliance. The city uses brooms and rakes to maintain city parks with no impact on costs or cleanliness.
4. Claremont banned gas-powered blowers in 1991, but allows electric blowers. Positive citizen involvement is high.

## FINDINGS

Under *California Penal Code* § 933 and §933.05, responses are required to all findings.

Based on documented evidence, it is the finding of the Grand Jury that leaf blower operations represent health hazards to the citizens of Orange County. The hazards include pollution from engine exhaust and the pollution caused by entrained particulate matter being discharged from the blowers. The quantity of pollution injected into the air represents health dangers to all citizens of the county. Additionally, operators risk suffering permanent hearing loss from the high noise levels in close proximity to the blowers. Non-consenting citizens are subject to loss of quality of life from the noise forced upon them by blower operation in their area.

1. Exhaust pollution from two-cycle engines is a large contributor of carbon monoxide (CO), nitrous oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM). Exhaust pollution *per leaf blower* per hour is the equivalent to the amount of smog from 17 cars driven one hour. Leaf blower exhaust pollution remains localized in the neighborhood in which it is generated. Combustion exhaust PM remains suspended in the air for hours and is easily assimilated in the lungs. Leaf blowers contribute to total Orange County pollution.

A response is required to Finding 1 from **Board of Supervisors** and the Cities of **Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, La Habra, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda**, and School Districts of **Anaheim City, Anaheim Union High, Brea-Olinda Unified, Buena Park, Capistrano Unified School District, Centralia, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton Joint Union High, Fullerton, Garden Grove Unified, Huntington Beach City, Huntington Beach Union High, Irvine Unified, La Habra City, Laguna Beach Unified, Los Alamitos Unified, Lowell Joint, Magnolia, Newport-Mesa Unified, Ocean View, Orange Unified, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified, Saddleback Valley Unified, Santa Ana Unified, Savanna, Tustin Unified, Westminster, and Community College Districts Coastline Community, North Orange County, Santiago, and South Orange County**.

2. The particulate matter swept into the air by the high velocity air jet used in sweeping or blowing leaves is composed of dust, fecal matter, pesticides, fungi, chemicals, fertilizers, and street dirt consisting of lead and organic and elemental carbon. These PM constituents are documented health hazards.

A response is required to Finding 2 from **Board of Supervisors** and the Cities of **Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, La Habra, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport**

Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda, and School Districts of Anaheim City, Anaheim Union High, Brea-Olinda Unified, Buena Park, Capistrano Unified School District, Centralia, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton Joint Union High, Fullerton, Garden Grove Unified, Huntington Beach City, Huntington Beach Union High, Irvine Unified, La Habra City, Laguna Beach Unified, Los Alamitos Unified, Lowell Joint, Magnolia, Newport-Mesa Unified, Ocean View, Orange Unified, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified, Saddleback Valley Unified, Santa Ana Unified, Savanna, Tustin Unified, Westminster, and Community College Districts Coastline Community, North Orange County, Santiago, and South Orange County.

3. Noise from gasoline-powered leaf blowers is a significant danger to the health of the blower operator and a severe annoyance to the non-consenting citizens nearby.

A response is required to Finding 3 from Board of Supervisors and the Cities of Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, La Habra, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda, and School Districts of Anaheim City, Anaheim Union High, Brea-Olinda Unified, Buena Park, Capistrano Unified School District, Centralia, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton Joint Union High, Fullerton, Garden Grove Unified, Huntington Beach City, Huntington Beach Union High, Irvine Unified, La Habra City, Laguna Beach Unified, Los Alamitos Unified, Lowell Joint, Magnolia, Newport-Mesa Unified, Ocean View, Orange Unified, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified, Saddleback Valley Unified, Santa Ana Unified, Savanna, Tustin Unified, Westminster, and Community College Districts of Coastline Community, North Orange County, Santiago, and South Orange County.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Under *California Penal Code* § 933 and §933.05, the Grand Jury requires responses from the appropriate agencies and officials to each of the following recommendations.

Based on the findings, the Grand Jury recommends that:

1. The Orange County Board of Supervisors ceases the County use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in maintenance and cleanup operations in the unincorporated areas of the County. (Findings 1 through 3)

(A response to Recommendation 1 is required from Orange County Board of Supervisors.)

- 2 The 30 county cities, except Laguna Beach, which already does so, cease the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in their city maintenance and cleanup operations. (Findings 1 through 3)

(A response to Recommendation 2 is required from Anaheim, Brea, Buena Park, Costa Mesa, Cypress, Dana Point, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Irvine, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, La Habra, Lake Forest, La Palma, Los Alamitos, Mission Viejo, Newport Beach, Orange, Placentia, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ana, Seal Beach, Stanton, Tustin, Villa Park, Westminster, and Yorba Linda.)

- 3 The 28 School Districts cease the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers in their school maintenance and cleaning operations (Findings 1 through 3.)

A response to Recommendation 3 is required from 28 School Districts of Anaheim City, Anaheim Union High, Brea-Olinda Unified, Buena Park, Capistrano Unified School District, Centralia, Cypress, Fountain Valley, Fullerton Joint Union High, Fullerton, Garden Grove Unified, Huntington Beach City, Huntington Beach Union High, Irvine Unified, La Habra City, Laguna Beach Unified, Los Alamitos Unified, Lowell Joint, Magnolia, Newport-Mesa Unified, Ocean View, Orange Unified, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified, Saddleback Valley Unified, Santa Ana Unified, Savanna, Tustin Unified, Westminster.

4. The four Community College Districts cease the use of gasoline powered leaf blowers in their school maintenance and cleaning operations (Findings 1 through 3.)

(A response to Recommendation 4 is required from the four Community College Districts of Coastline Community, North Orange County, Santiago, and South Orange County.)

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# ROSS VALLEY REPORTER

VOLUME 57 ISSUE 43

A Marin's paper, Community Newspaper serving San Anselmo, Fairfax, Ross, Kentfield

OCTOBER 24-30, 2012

## Patron's 'work' community center in 1970s

The 1970s were a time of great change in the Ross Valley community center. The center was founded in 1968 and was a place where people could go to get help, find a job, or just hang out. The center was a place where people could go to get help, find a job, or just hang out. The center was a place where people could go to get help, find a job, or just hang out.

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## Amateur theater group will be called 'The Players' in San Anselmo

The amateur theater group in San Anselmo will be called 'The Players'. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

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## Students of 'essays' in annual regional writing contest

Students of 'essays' in annual regional writing contest. The contest was held in 1970 and was a place where students could show their writing skills. The contest was held in 1970 and was a place where students could show their writing skills.

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## Officers of the 'essays' club

Officers of the 'essays' club. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

infant with any person within the state of California. The center was a place where people could go to get help, find a job, or just hang out.

St Rita's Catholic Church in Fairfax sponsors 'The Players' in San Anselmo. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

Artists and authors in San Anselmo. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

Legislation on state measures. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The group was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

Report on the 'essays' club. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays. The club was founded in 1970 and has since then produced several plays.

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Chapter 9.20

UNNECESSARY NOISE

Sections:

- 9.20.010 Unnecessary noises generally prohibited.
- 9.20.020 Auto body repair.
- 9.20.030 Power-driven machinery and portable gasoline engine-powered blowers requiring permits.
- 9.20.035 Construction.
- 9.20.040 Musical instruments.
- 9.20.050 Animals and fowl.
- 9.20.060 Holidays defined.
- 9.20.070 Exhaust pipe required for gasoline, etc., motor.
- 9.20.080 Loudspeakers.
- 9.20.090 Permit required when no other procedure is applicable.
- 9.20.100 Violations—Criminal penalties.

9.20.010 Unnecessary noises generally prohibited.

No person shall make, cause, suffer or permit to be made or caused, upon any premises owned, occupied or controlled by such person, or upon any public roadway, sidewalk, path or public right-of-way, any unnecessary noises or sounds which are annoying to persons of ordinary sensitiveness, which are loud and raucous or which are so harsh or so prolonged, or unnatural, or unusual in their intensity, time or place of occurrence as to occasion discomfort to the inhabitants of this town or any number thereof.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion of this section for any reason is held invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this section. The town council further declares that it would have passed this and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or portion thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, phrases, or portions be declared unconstitutional on their face or as applied (Ord. 599, 2007; Ord. 267 §4(part), 1967; prior code §4350).

9.20.020 Auto body repair. No person shall at any time repair any auto body or fender unless within a completely enclosed building and the noises from the repairs are reasonably confined within and to the building. (Ord. 267 §4(part), 1967; prior code §4351 (part)).

9.20.030 Power-driven machinery and portable gasoline engine-powered blowers requiring permits. (a) It is unlawful for any person within the town limits to operate any portable gasoline powered machine to blow leaves, dirt and other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns or other surfaces.

Notwithstanding the prohibition of this subsection, the director of public works may issue permits to property owners to use gasoline engine powered blowers between the hours of nine a.m. to five p.m. Monday through Friday, provided the noise level of the blower to be used measures less than seventy-two decibels at no more than fifty feet distance, and provided a hardship or special circumstance is shown based on either (1) infirmity; or (2) property size

greater than one acre. A permit may be issued only if contiguous neighbors do not object.

(b) It is unlawful for any person within the town limits to engage in the use of power-driven machinery or equipment for yardwork activity before eight a.m. or after five p.m., Monday through Friday of each week and not at any time on Saturday, Sunday, or other holidays listed in Section 9.20.060; except that:

The use of power-driven machinery or equipment operated solely by the owner of the property for yardwork is allowed on Saturdays between the hours of nine-thirty a.m. and four p.m. Power mowers only may be used by gardeners working on Saturdays between the hours of nine-thirty a.m. and four p.m..

The director of public works may, on a finding of good cause, grant written exceptions to these time limitations. Such permission must be obtained prior to the commencement of any work outside the prescribed hours.

Emergency Situations. Power equipment may be used at any time should an act of nature create a dangerous or hazardous situation.

(c) The public safety department may issue citations to property owners of one hundred dollars per offense for violations of this section. (Ord. 554, 2000; Ord. 553 (part), 2000; Ord. 515 §2, 1993; Ord. 477 §1, 1990; Ord. 465 §1, 1988; Ord. 267 §4(part), 1967; prior code §4351(part)).

9.20.035 Construction. (a) It is unlawful for any person or construction company within the town limits to perform any construction operation before eight a.m. or after five p.m., Monday through Friday of each week and not at any time on Saturday, Sunday, or the other holidays listed in Section 9.20.060; except that:

(1) Work done solely in the interior of a building or structure, the performance of which does not create any noise which is audible from the exterior of the building or structure;

(2) Work actually physically performed solely by the owner of the property, on Saturday between the hours of ten a.m. and four p.m. and not at any time on Sundays or other holidays listed in Section 9.20.060 herein;

Upon issuance of a building permit property owners and construction company representatives for the project will be issued a copy of the ordinance codified in this section.

(b) Fines for violations:

(1) First Offense. The public safety department will issue a warning.

(2) Second Offense. A citation will be issued to the property owner or the construction company representative. A fine of two hundred fifty dollars will be levied.

(3) Third Offense. A citation will be issued to the property owner or the construction company representative. A fine of five hundred dollars will be levied.

(4) Fourth Offense. A citation will be issued to the property owner or the construction company representative. A fine of seven hundred fifty dollars will be levied.

(5) Fifth Offense. A citation will be issued to the property owner or the construction company representative. A fine of one thousand dollars will be levied.

(6) Sixth Offense. The job will be red tagged and work suspended pending a show cause hearing by the town council. (Ord. 553 (part), 2000).