

In compliance with Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended portions of the Brown Act, Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-33-20 (Stay At Home Order issued March 19, 2020), and the County of Los Angeles Public Health Officer's Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community for Control of COVID-19 Blueprint for a Safer Economy – Orange Tier Risk Reduction Measures (issued April 14, 2021), members of the Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission and staff will participate in this meeting via teleconference or other electronic means in our continuing effort to practice social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY VIEW AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/join>

OR

To access the Zoom meeting, use the following credentials online (<https://zoom.us>) or via phone (Phone number: 669-900-9128)

Meeting ID: 991 4547 8767

Passcode: 324924

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING by emailing EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the item number "7A" and/or title of this item with your comments. All comments emailed by 2:00 p.m. on the date of the meeting will be included as a "Supplemental" and uploaded to <https://www.torranceca.gov/government/city-clerk/commissions-and-advisory-boards/environmental-quality-and-energy-conservation-commission> Comments received after 2:00 p.m. will be uploaded the following day to the previously noted web address.



TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission is an advisory body to the City Council on matters pertaining to oil, animal, energy conservation, and other environmental matters. Regular meetings are scheduled on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM. All meetings are open to the public via teleconference.

Staff reports are available for review at the Community Development Department, Civic Center Main Library and the City Clerk's Office. Questions or concerns may be directed to Deputy Community Development Director, Linda Cessna at 310.618.5930. Agendas and Minutes are posted on the City of Torrance Home Page www.TorranceCA.Gov.

Decisions by the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission may be appealed to the City Council. Such appeals shall be in writing, accompanied by the filing fee, and shall be filed with the City Clerk within fifteen (15) calendar days following the decision of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please call 310.618.5990. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. [28CFR 35.102-104 ADA Title II]

**PUBLIC COUNTER
HOURS OF OPERATION**
Monday through Friday from
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Offices are closed alternate Fridays.

City Hall will be closed:
Friday, May 7, 2021
Friday, May 21, 2021
Monday, May 31, 2021

CITY OF TORRANCE TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

VIA TELECONFERENCE
OR OTHER ELECTRONIC MEANS

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION MAY TAKE ACTION ON ANY ITEM LISTED ON THE AGENDA

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL / MOTION FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE**
- 3. FLAG SALUTE**
- 4. REPORT ON POSTING OF AGENDA**
The agenda was posted on the Public Notice Board at 3031 Torrance Boulevard.
- 5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 4, 2021 & April 1, 2021
- 6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1
(Limited to a 30 minute period)**

This portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on items not on the agenda. Under the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission cannot act on items raised during public comment, but may respond briefly to statements made or questions posed; request clarification; or refer the item to staff. Speakers under Orals are limited to either Oral Communications #1 or Oral Communication #2 and no longer than 3 minutes per speaker. You can attend the meeting via Zoom at <https://zoom.us/join> and use the "Raise Your Hand" feature when prompted. Your comments to the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting will be recorded as part of the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting. By staying online and making public comment during the Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission meeting, you are agreeing to have your audio recorded.

ROLL CALL: Deemer _____ Dewitt _____ Endo-Roberts _____ Martin _____ Montgomery _____ Stecker _____ Chairperson Wright _____

TEQECC 05/06/21

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Leaf Blower Regulation- Consider conceptual amendments to the Torrance Municipal Code related to use of leaf blowers.

Recommendation of the Community Development Director that the following actions be taken:

- 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a five year period;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2:

9. ADJOURNMENT: Tentatively June 3, 2021

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 4, 2021 via teleconference or other electronic means.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, DeWitt, Endo-Roberts*, Martin, Montgomery, Stecker, and Chairperson Wright.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna
Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan,
Park Services Manager Drake, and Mayor Furey.

*Commissioner Endo-Roberts joined the meeting at 7:04.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner DeWitt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan reported the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on the Public Notice Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING

MOTION: Commissioner Stecker moved to approve the Commission meeting minutes of February 4, 2021 as presented. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; the motion passed on a 6-0 roll call vote (absent Commissioner Endo-Roberts).

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1

Commissioner Endo-Roberts arrived.

Mayor Furey expressed his appreciation to Commissioners and offered suggestions for successful teleconferencing via Zoom.

John-Milo Ernst spoke.

7. **ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

7A. **UPCOMING ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS IN TORRANCE**

Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan introduced the item.

Park Services Manager Drake provided a PowerPoint presentation "Projects in Process." She discussed her background, the importance of biodiversity, followed by information and photographs of current land based grants and projects in the City as follows:

Henrietta Basin Expansion Project
HFC Wildlife Activity Grant
The Torrance Urban Trees Project
The Madrona Marsh Preserve Vernal Pool Project
The Southern Tarplant Preserve Project
The Turtle Pond and Amphitheater Project
Miyawaki Forests - Native Plants Gardens and Mini Urban Forests

8. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2**

Members of the Commission spoke.

A member of the public spoke.

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reviewed items tentatively scheduled for the April 1, 2021 Commission meeting.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: At 8:22 p.m. Commissioner Stecker moved to adjourn tonight's meeting to April 1, 2021. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

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**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 1, 2021 via teleconference or other electronic means.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, DeWitt, Endo-Roberts*, Martin, Montgomery, Stecker, and Chairperson Wright.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and Planning Assistant Martin.

*Arrived 7:05 p.m.

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Montgomery led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy Community Development Director Cessna reported the agenda for this meeting was posted on the Public Notice Board.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE

6. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #1

None.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. LEAF BLOWER REGULATION

The Commission last discussed leaf blowers on December 6, 2019. At that time, the Commission made the following recommendations:

1. Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
2. Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within one year;
3. Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. Perform public education outreach.

The recommendation of the Community Development Department echoes the recommendation of the Environmental Quality Commission, with the exception that the recommended period for replacement be extended from one year to five years, particularly in light of the hold on the AQMD exchange program and the lingering economic effects of the pandemic; and, that the hours of operation mirror current construction hours: 7:30-6:00 Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 Saturday, and 10:00-4:00 Sunday, with only homeowners being authorized to use leaf blowers.

Therefore, the Community Development Director recommends:

1. Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
2. Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a five year period;
3. Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. Perform public education outreach.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to continue the item to May 6, 2021. Commissioner Montgomery seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC #2

Members of the Commission spoke.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 8:04 p.m. Commissioner Stecker moved to adjourn tonight's meeting to May 6, 2021. Commissioner Martin seconded the motion; roll call vote reflected unanimous approval.

###

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

May 6, 2021

To: Chairman Wright and Members
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission

Subject: Leaf Blower Regulation

The Commission last discussed leaf blowers on April 1, 2021. At that time, the Commission recommended holding the item until June, in order to allow time for the Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to hold their May meeting at which time the AQMD is expected to announce funding for their rebate/exchange program for gas to electric gardening equipment, including leaf blowers. However, in response to a Council request, this matter is being heard in May rather than June, and any subsequent recommendation will need to take into account the uncertainty of the AQMD exchange program. The Commission had previously discussed the following recommendations:

- 1) Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within one year;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

The recommendation of the Community Development Department echoes the recommendation of the Environmental Quality Commission, with the exception that the recommended period for replacement be extended from one year to five years, particularly in light of the hold on the AQMD exchange program and the lingering economic effects of the pandemic. In addition, it is recommended that the hours of operation mirror current construction hours: 7:30-6:00 Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 Saturday, and 10:00-4:00 Sunday, with only homeowners being authorized to use leaf blowers on Sundays.

The reasoning behind the extended transition period as recommended by the Community Development Department is largely financial. The City does not want to be in a position of being unable to meet the designated time frame while expecting the public to do so. Due to the severe budgetary constraints as a result of the pandemic, a one year transition period is inadequate to transition all City equipment, particularly if the AQMD exchange program is not available or is limited in funding. However, even with the AQMD program

available, transitioning all city equipment in the space of a single year would be highly problematic.

Likewise, there is concern that a one year transition period could pose a hardship for gardeners and homeowners, who may have been financially impacted by the pandemic.

Over the years, there have been a number of approaches to the question of leaf blower use, ranging from a complete ban to bans only on gas leaf blowers. Some jurisdictions have enacted exemptions for certain properties, such as residential common interest developments of 5 or more units, golf courses, public parks, industrial parks or other large areas, as defined by the jurisdiction. A hybrid approach, giving the longest phase-in time to larger areas, with a shorter phase-in for smaller areas could be considered. There are also jurisdictions that, rather than banning only gas leaf blowers, have enacted bans on all equipment using two-stroke gas engines, as was suggested at the April meeting.

At this meeting, staff recommends that the Commission refine the recommendation that they will forward to Council to include any additional considerations not initially a part of the recommendation and, if felt to be pertinent, any adjustments that would be made should the AQMD exchange program not be funded as expected.

The Community Development Director continues to recommend:

- 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a five year period;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. April 1, 2021 TEQECC Leaf Blower Item
2. December 6, 2019 TEQECC Leaf Blower Item
3. Correspondence

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7A

TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ENERGY AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION

April 1, 2021

To: Chairman Wright and Members
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission

Subject: Leaf Blower Regulation

The Commission last discussed leaf blowers on December 6, 2019. At that time, the Commission made the following recommendations:

- 1) Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within one year;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

Prior to moving the issue forward to Council, staff met with Public Works to discuss the feasibility of electric leaf blowers for their operations. Public Works committed to acquiring electric leaf blowers through the AQMD exchange program and testing the practical application for their work requirements. At the time, a three-month trial period was anticipated. However, shortly thereafter, the AQMD exchange program was placed on hold.

Public Works currently has two battery operated leaf blowers and three battery operated hedge trimmers. They report a battery life of 15 to 30 minutes for the leaf blowers and a much better duration for the hedge trimmers. In order to efficiently operate with the electric leaf blowers, a power inverter is used to charge multiple batteries on job sites. When the AQMD exchange program comes back online, Public Works plans to exchange a gas operated string trimmer for a battery-operated trimmer and intends to continue to exchange gas leaf blowers for electric as they come due for replacement.

While the transition from gas to electric seems to be acceptable for Public Works, Community Services may find the transition, particularly in terms of leaf blowers, to be more difficult, as they tend to have much larger expanses of area to maintain, however, they are examining ways to transition. For all City operations, in the short term, financing the change from gas to electric and the accompanying need to provide adequate charging infrastructure will be problematic, particularly without the ability to make use of the AQMD exchange program.

The Environmental Quality Commission also expressed a desire to look at phasing out not only gas powered leaf blowers, but all gas powered gardening equipment. The Public Works Department is already making strides in that direction, with the caveat that they do not anticipate moving from gas to electric at this time for their chain saws.

Because many of the complaints regarding leaf blowers focus on the noise generated, staff has prepared comparisons of the decibel level of gas leaf blowers as opposed to electric. Both the electric and gas models used by Public Works are manufacturer rated at 64 dba at 50 feet. Noise readings taken at 50 feet found the electric leaf blower at 64 dba and the gas leaf blower at 68 dba when on but not being used. In use, the electric leaf blower registers from 62-67 dba, while the gas leaf blower registered 64-69 dba. It appears that there is at least a small reduction in noise generated by the electric leaf blowers as compared with the gas model, in addition to the lowering of pollutants generated by the gas-powered motor.

In looking at this issue in the past, the community has been divided as to what was most concerning about leaf blowers: the noise or the pollution caused by their use. When this was discussed previously, the establishing of hours of operation for leaf blowers was intended to address, to some extent, the issue of noise generation, while the change from gas to electric power focused more on the environmental impacts.

The recommendation of the Community Development Department echoes the recommendation of the Environmental Quality Commission, with the exception that the recommended period for replacement be extended from one year to five years, particularly in light of the hold on the AQMD exchange program and the lingering economic effects of the pandemic; and, that the hours of operation mirror current construction hours: 7:30-6:00 Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00 Saturday, and 10:00-4:00 Sunday, with only homeowners being authorized to use leaf blowers.

Therefore, the Community Development Director recommends:

- 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a five year period;
- 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
- 4) Perform public education outreach.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. December 6, 2019 TEQECC Leaf Blower Item & Minutes

TORRANCE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMISSION

December 6, 2019

To: Chairman Montgomery and Members
of the Torrance Environmental Quality Commission

Subject: Leaf Blower Regulation

The City has considered various options in regards to the use of leaf blowers in the City. These include a complete ban; a ban only on gas leaf blowers; a partial ban based on size and zoning of property; restrictions on hours of operation; and education. Concerns regarding leaf blower use include two main issues: pollution and noise. Based on the outreach conducted, there are strong feelings on both sides of the issue, with similar numbers of residents concerned with the noise and concerned about pollution. Likewise, in terms of solutions, similar numbers favor no ban at all compared with a ban on all or gas powered leaf blowers. The option with the largest positive response was a restriction on hours of operation.

In considering potential regulatory actions regarding the use of leaf blowers, there are several concerns. First and foremost, is the raising of expectations that cannot reasonably be met, should the City choose to ban leaf blowers. As the City of Redondo Beach indicated when they adopted a ban, they did not believe that they would be able to enforce it, and, over a year later, they are finding that to be the case. The preliminary stages of enforcement generally would include warnings and education, however, at some point, there is an expectation that citations will be written and fines levied. In order to cite for use of a leaf blower, the person writing the citation must observe the use. Most complaints come in after the use has stopped, and even in those cases where the complaint is filed during use, by the time a City representative arrives, the use will likely be completed. Other jurisdictions with bans in place, such as Manhattan Beach, make use of the Police Department for enforcement, however, that is not recommended for Torrance.

In addition, our parks services have been testing various electric leaf blowers for effectiveness in their work, and have found that they are not able to complete their work with the current generation of blowers. Thus, a ban on gas powered leaf blowers would be a problem for our City crews in terms of their being able to complete their work.

Based on concerns regarding ability to enforce, the first recommendation is to engage in more robust public education, including business license inserts for gardeners, demonstration of electric leaf blowers at the environmental fair and exploration of the possibility of a leaf blower exchange through the COG and

AQMD, similar to their outreach efforts with gas lawn mowers. Restrictions on hours of operation, mirroring the current construction hours, would also be a possibility. The Municipal Code regarding Construction Hours is attached for reference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Cessna
Deputy Community Development Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Torrance Municipal Code Construction Hours

46.3.1 CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS AND PROJECTS.

(Amended by O-3712)

- a) It shall be unlawful for any person within the City of Torrance to operate power construction tools, equipment, or engage in the performance of any outside construction or repair work on buildings, structures, or projects in or adjacent to a residential area involving the creation of noise beyond 50 decibels (db) as measured at property lines, except between the hours of 7:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturdays. Construction shall be prohibited on Sundays and Holidays observed by City Hall. An exception exists between the hours of 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. for homeowners that reside at the property.
- b) The Community Development Director may allow expanded hours and days of construction if unusual circumstances and conditions exist. Such requests must be made in writing and must receive approval by the Director prior to any expansion of the hour and day restrictions listed above.
- c) Every construction project requiring Planning Commission review or considered to be a significant remodel as defined by Section 231.1.2, shall be required to post an information board along the front property line that displays the property owner's name and contact number, contractor's name and contact number, a copy of TMC Section 46.3.1, a list of any special conditions, and the Code Enforcement phone number where violations can be reported.
- d) Properties zoned as commercial, industrial or within an established redevelopment District, are exempted from the above day and hour restrictions if a minimum buffer of 300 feet is maintained from the subject property's property line to the closest residential property. The Community Development Director, may, however, revoke such exemption for a particular project if the noise level exceeds 50 decibels (db) at the property line of a residential property beyond the 300 linear foot buffer.
- e) Heavy construction equipment such as pile drivers, mechanical shovels, derricks, hoists, pneumatic hammers, compressors or similar devices shall not be operated at any time, within or adjacent to a residential area, without first obtaining from the Community Development Director permission to do so. Such request for permission shall include a list and type of equipment to be used, the requested hours and locations of its use, and the applicant shall be required to show that the selection of equipment and construction techniques has been based on minimization of noise within the limitations of such equipment as is commercially available or combinations of such equipment and auxiliary sound barriers. Such permission to operate heavy construction equipment will be revoked if operation of such equipment is not in accordance to approval. No permission shall be required to perform emergency work as defined in Article 1 of this Chapter.

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND
ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission convened in a regular session at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 5, 2019 in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners Deemer, DeWitt, Endo-Roberts, Martin, Stecker, and Chairperson Montgomery.

Absent: Commissioner Wright.

Also Present: Deputy Community Development Director Cessna and Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan.

MOTION: Commissioner Martin moved to approve the excused absence of Commissioner Wright from the meeting of December 5, 2019. Commissioner Endo-Roberts seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

3. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Commissioner Stecker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. POSTING OF THE AGENDA

Deputy Director Cessna reported the agenda for this meeting was properly posted on the Public Notice Board.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: NOVEMBER 7, 2019

MOTION: Commissioner DeWitt moved to approve the November 7, 2019 Commission meeting minutes as presented. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

7A. LEAF BLOWER RECOMMENDATIONS

Deputy Director Cessna introduced this item referred by City Council and called attention to supplemental correspondence received after agenda packets were prepared. She reported the City has considered various options in regards to the use of leaf blowers in the City that include: a complete ban; a ban only on gas leaf blowers; and restrictions on hours or days of operation. She stated concerns regarding leaf blower use include noise pollution, greenhouse gas

emissions, and dust blown into the air. She discussed some of staff's concerns: 1) Park Services has been testing electric leaf blowers but have found they are not powerful enough and do not have a long enough charge; and 2) ability to enforce a ban. She noted in the City of Redondo Beach Code Enforcement officers are tasked with enforcement but have written few citations. She explained an officer would need to see the person actually using the leaf blower, and added Torrance only has four Code Enforcement officers. She stated the City of Manhattan Beach uses the Police Department for enforcement; however, Torrance Police Department does not have the time or manpower to do that.

She presented staff's recommendation to consider restricting hours of operation, similar to residential construction hours (Attachment 1). She suggested engaging in extensive public education, demonstrating electric blowers at the Environmental Fair, and working with South Bay Cities Council of Government and South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) to promote incentives encouraging transition to electric blowers. She indicated a ban on gas blowers would be more effective if people were given a period of time to transition to electric.

Commissioner Endo-Roberts expressed concern for quality of life and burdensome restrictions on primarily people of color who make their living by gardening. Responding to her inquiry, Deputy Director Cessna stated some Redondo Beach residents are unhappy that few citations have been written, adding when an ordinance is passed there is an expectation it will be enforced.

In response to Commissioner Deemer's inquiries, Deputy Director Cessna stated several cities in Los Angeles County have banned leaf blowers and, because the Courts do not like hearing quality of life issues, staff is looking into the possibility of implementing an administrative citation program.

Commissioner Stecker stated he would be concerned if City workers did not take the lead, and he speculated a large percentage of individuals would obey regulations even without enforcement.

Chairperson Montgomery questioned which makes and models of electric blowers Park Services tested, the number of hours per day a typical gardener uses a blower, and the number of blowers in the City's inventory. He stated Jet Propulsion Laboratory has converted to electric blowers and has a 77-acre campus.

Commissioner DeWitt proposed issuing citations to residents who employ gardeners who use gas blowers, maintaining they should be held accountable. He stated the City should change its practices by converting to electric blowers, and that homeowners associations could set an example.

Commissioner Martin recommended researching how technology continues to improve.

Commissioners Endo-Roberts and Deemer voiced their support for giving residents at least one year to transition to electric blowers.

Dennis Piotrowski stated noise is his primary concern and recommended the City start the process of a gas blower ban, perhaps only in residential areas. He mentioned the City of Hermosa Beach has a complete ban of leaf blowers and it is effective

Tim Johnson discussed noise and air pollution as well as particulate matter blown into the atmosphere. He stated banning gas blowers would take care of the first two issues, and asked the Commission to at least ban them on weekends in residential neighborhoods. He maintained just because a law is difficult to enforce is no reason not to adopt it, adding citations could be complaint driven. He described carbon emissions from two stroke engines and noted the average gas blower produces noise levels of 70 decibels at 50 feet away, noting gardening equipment has an exemption.

Steve Shulz expressed his support for banning all leaf blowers, or gas blowers at a minimum, and discussed the dangers of particulate matter in the air.

Julie Dojiri stated New Horizons is 55 acres and employs seven gardeners who use gas blowers. She noted residents complain about noise and dust, and she would like to see the City require gardeners to transition to electric blowers.

Pete Martini provided information about pollution generated from two stroke engines. He stated it is not required to have leaf blowers to keep Torrance clean, there are local "green" gardening firms, and Torrance should take the lead in transitioning.

Commissioner DeWitt expressed concern there would be complaints that other gardening tools such as lawn mowers and hedge trimmers are not being banned.

Deputy Director Cessna recommended the Commission try to reach a consensus on a framework she could take to City Council for its consideration.

Chairperson Montgomery stated technology is improving, dangerous emissions come from two stroke engines, operators are exposed to carcinogens, and a battery backpack is available that has a three-hour run time. He noted the AQMD approved an additional 25% discount on zero emission lawn and garden equipment, with \$750,000 allocated to manufacturers participating in an exchange program. He stated regulations are coming, we should listen to the public, and Torrance should phase out gas blowers entirely over six months or a year and look into procuring AQMD funding.

Commissioner DeWitt relayed a suggestion to allow leaf blower use one day a week.

Commissioner Stecker recommended engaging in a public education program, transitioning to electric blowers in one year for residential and possibly longer for the City and commercial, limit hours of operation, and ban weekend use for all blowers.

Deputy Director Cessna pointed out that many residents do their own gardening on weekends and if funds are available the City would move quickly.

Commissioner Deemer suggested the City eliminate the noise exemption for gardening equipment, and Deputy Director Cessna stated they could encourage gardeners to use electric blowers that have a lower decibel level.

MOTION: Commissioner Endo-Roberts moved to recommend City Council consider: 1) ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers in one year 2) examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District funding; 3) limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Monday through Saturday; and 4) public education outreach.

Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

The Commission was in recess from 8:22 p.m. to 8:28 p.m.

7B. RAIL TO TRAILS PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Deputy Director Cessna stated this evening staff would share some preliminary ideas based on what the City owns, the new Transit Center, and where it makes the most sense to start this type of a program. She asked for the Commission's feedback, and direction on whether it is a viable proposal to pursue.

With the aid of an Open Corridor Study map, Senior Environmental Quality Officer Duncan described the Sustainability Team's study of a long-term strategy to look at underutilized rail and electrical transmission line right-of-ways throughout the City. She stated these right-of-ways could potentially provide connective corridors for e-bikes and e-scooter modes of active transportation, pedestrians, and open space for native species including pollinators. She noted the first area of focus would be around the future Transit Center in order to facilitate first and last mile solutions through connections to areas such as Downtown Torrance or Civic Center. She described an area (#4) across Crenshaw Boulevard from the Transit Center on Dominguez Way acquired by the Water Department that may provide opportunities for shared benefits. She stated another opportunity (#3) is a spur going from the Transit Center to the Civic Center. She pointed out yellow areas on the map that are Southern California Edison property that would be looked at in the future if they are abandoned. She stated the Team would continue to look for opportunities to facilitate these connections, through grants for design and land acquisition.

Commissioner Deemer inquired why the Traffic Commission is not considering this item, and Deputy Director Cessna explained it is related to sustainability efforts and is separate from the streets. He stated Southern California Edison would most likely sell any surplus land just south of 190th Street to developers to put in housing.

Chairperson Montgomery voiced his support for creating more green space, connectivity, and encouraging people to be more mobile. He suggested the Team partner with the South Bay Parklands Conservancy that shares the same vision and has identified some of the same opportunities.

Mark Bodziak expressed his support for the Rail to Trails idea.

MOTION: Commissioner Montgomery moved for staff to continue working on the Rail to Trails program. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected 6-0 approval (absent Commissioner Wright).

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION

It was decided the Commission would go dark in January 2020.

Commissioners Endo-Roberts, Martin, DeWitt, and Stecker spoke.

Chairperson Montgomery distributed "Climate Crisis News."

Commissioner Deemer distributed Green Horizon Magazine's "Bicycles Lead to Greener Pastures."

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:12 p.m., Commissioner Deemer moved to adjourn the meeting to February 6, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex meeting room, Torrance City Hall. Commissioner Stecker seconded the motion and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Montgomery so ordered.

###

Approved as submitted February 6, 2020 s/ Rebecca Poirier, City Clerk

FW: Leaf Blowers

 DELETE  REPLY  REPLY ALL  FORWARD 



Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:56 PM

Mark as unread

To: Duncan, Nora;

[Bing Maps](#)

+ Get more apps

For supplemental

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote **NO** on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also **VERY** noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton



Duncan, Nora

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote NO on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also VERY noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton

[REDACTED]
Torrance 90503

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:37 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Daniel OSullivan [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:27 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item #7a

I would like to see gas blowing leaf blowers replace

With electric ones.

Fw: public comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:36 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Gloria Balcom [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:18 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: public comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Re Item #7a: I would like to see the use of leaf blowers banned in Torrance. In addition to the constant noise, they dirty the air and contribute significantly to allergies.

Gloria Balcom
[REDACTED]

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:35 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Isaac Elisaldez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Re: Item #7a

Dear City Leadership,

I support a full ban on leaf blowers. They create noise pollution that disturbs people and pets. They create air pollution in the forms of dust, detritus and engine exhaust. And the users only blow material from one place to another, it is never picked up and disposed of. For example, a lawnmower machine has a bag to catch the cut grass and the person mowing would go ahead and take the grass and dispose of it properly with green waste. But a person using a leaf blower only pushes refuse from one place to another, all while causing various forms of pollution and disturbance to residents. Leaf blowers are the bane of all neighborhoods. Please ban them here in Torrance.

Thank you, Isaac Elisaldez

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:33 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: tdunn gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item#7a:

I support the leaf blower regulations: transitioning from gas to electric powered blowers within a year, and limiting the hours.

Although, the hours on Saturday should be later as most families like to sleep in on this day. 10:00am or 11:00am would be more ideal for the beginning of the limited time on Saturdays.

--

Tracey Dunn

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:40 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Cornwell [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 7:24 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

As a Torrance resident since 1964, there is nothing more annoying than the whine of a leaf blower putting dust and debris into the air we breathe. Why not the old-fashioned broom and dust pan?

I support a ban on leaf blowers in Torrance.

David W. Cornwell, Esq.
[REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:38 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Monica Fredericks [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 3:02 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please ban gas powered leaf blowers. They are a noise nuisance as well as an environmental hazard for many who have respiratory issues. By design they slosh together a mixture of gasoline and oil in the combustion chamber and then spews out as much as one third of that fuel as a burned aerosol. Blowers also blow dust, molds, pollen and debris into the air not cleaning the area but just moving it to another inconspicuous area.

Thank you for taking the time to read and listen.

Sincerely,

Monica Fredericks
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:34 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Sue Siani [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:35 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I realize this is pretty late in the day to send this. I apologize, I just found out it was on the agenda for tonight.

I would like to express my disdain for the ridiculous amount of noise I'm routinely subjected to by leaf blowers. They are way too noisy and disruptive. Please pass an ordinance against them.

Thanks,
Sue Siani
Torrance Resident

Fw: LEAF BLOWERS

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:31 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Phil Shelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: LEAF BLOWERS

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Leaf blowers are noisy and polute more than the small size of the motors would seem to suggest. The noise can be really disturbing. Especially in close proximity in residential areas. The pollution is significant and pollution is something that should be eliminated whenever possible. I do feel for the people who use leaf blowers in their work. With lawn services the leaf blowers are used between houses and to blow driveways and sidewalks clean. Lots of dirt is rendered airborne and people with respiratory illness suffer. Sometime greatly. One thing that people seldom think of is that along with airborne dirt come airborne seeds. I used to wonder why I always had plenty of weeds even though I really tried to keep them pulled. I think that with few exceptions leaf blowers should be banned. Perhaps some larger commercial areas or sports fields could be exempted after study is made of the impact of the leaf blowers used in that area. The leaf blowers should also be relegated to special hours and not on the weekend.

Phillip Shelton

--

Hope is a longing for a future condition over which you have no agency

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:27 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Gary Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I am a 35 year resident of Torrance and I live in the Walteria area.

I am disturbed many times each week not only by the leaf blower noise, but by the pollution that comes with the use of those small gasoline engines.

I strongly support a measure to outlaw gasoline powered leaf blowers in the city of Torrance.

Thanks for your service.

Gary Hart
[REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:23 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Ellen Peterson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:05 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Ban Leaf Blowers in Torrance

[Ellen Peterson](#)

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:22 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:55 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote **NO** on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also **VERY** noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton
[REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:19 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Bill Cunningham-Corso [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:51 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please BAN these devises. Air pollution- noise pollution.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Fw: Public Comment Item #7a Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:30 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment Item #7a Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I support leaf blower regulations (a ban or otherwise)

Would like to see the gas powered banned and limited to hours of operation for electric, 9-5pm. Using gas leaf blowers could be a misdemeanor. They are too noisy everywhere everyday.

Bans on gas-powered leaf blowers were passed into law in Manhattan Beach in 2011 and in Hermosa Beach since the early 1990s. Redondo Beach passed its first ordinance in 1986,. Why has it taken Torrance so long?

Thank you for your attention and taking action on this matter.

Kelly Wedel

South Torrance Resident since 1996

Fw: Leaf Blower Regulations.

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:26 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Brenda Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blower Regulations.

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I would like to see a ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers which pollute the air and just spread the debris onto adjacent properties. They are also noisy and smelly.

Thank you,

Brenda Short.

[REDACTED]
Torrance CA [REDACTED]

FW: Leaf Blower Regulations.

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 4:45 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenda Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:42 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Leaf Blower Regulations.

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I would like to see a ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers which pollute the air and just spread the debris onto adjacent properties. They are also noisy and smelly.

Thank you,

Brenda Short.

[REDACTED]
Torrance CA [REDACTED]

FW: Public Comment Leaf Blower

 DELETE  REPLY  REPLY ALL  FORWARD 



Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 4:31 PM

Mark as unread

To: Duncan, Nora;

Flag for follow up. Start by Thursday, April 01, 2021. Due by Thursday, April 01, 2021.

For supplemental

From: Kathleen Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:24 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Leaf Blower

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hi Linda,

I hope you have been doing great, despite this crazy time. I received a newsletter regarding submitting a public comment on leaf blowers. Here is mine. Thank you so much!

Re: Leaf Blowers

My name is Kathleen and I usually don't bother the city for anything. But the noise levels and fumes from leaf blowers is absurd. I can't believe that I'm actually complaining about something.

I love Torrance. It's a great change from LA, but the leaf blowers make it just as loud as the city. And I've never experienced so many of these in LA.

They go for a minimum of 45 minutes; and are used multiple times during the day within the same range.

It is so disturbing, especially while working from home and homeschooling. The machines are EXTREMELY LOUD, similar to tree cutters. There's no escaping the sound!

I've complained prior to the pandemic but it seems to be worse now. My entire place wreaks of fumes if I accidentally leave a window open. I know you have many issues at hand and hopefully, this isn't a huge burden to add.

There's no limit to what GOD can do!

FW: Leaf Blowers

 DELETE  REPLY  REPLY ALL  FORWARD 



Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 4:08 PM

Mark as unread

To: Duncan, Nora;

[For supplemental](#)

From: Ellen Peterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Ban Leaf Blowers in Torrance

[Ellen Peterson](#)

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:45 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

am thinking this one may be In the envcomm mail box, but don't have access from home.

From: Tim Goodrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: FW: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Bill & Fran [REDACTED]
Date: 4/1/21 6:16 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov
Cc: Tim Goodrich [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment

Regarding tonight Item #7a: My wife and I, 40-year residents of Torrance, wish to express our strong opposition to the permitted use of leaf blowers in Torrance. We support a TOTAL BAN, or at the very minimum a well-enforced limit on decibel level and time-of-day usage.

Thank you,
Bill & Fran Arrowsmith
[REDACTED]

FW: My public comment for the 4/1/21 Environmental Quality Commission's meeting was truncated in the Supplemental7AApril12021

Cessna, Linda

Wed 4/7/2021 10:20 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>; Dartois, Jana <JDartois@TorranceCA.gov>;

I did not get to see the supplemental- can we verify below and make sure we get the full text into the supplemental for June? Thanks! lc

From: April Telles [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 4, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: My public comment for the 4/1/21 Environmental Quality Commission's meeting was truncated in the Supplemental7AApril12021

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hi Linda, If you compare the Supplemental7AApril12021 file to my original email, most of my email was truncated.

The only part included was just my cut and paste of commission recommendations. My personal comments did not make it into the Supplemental file. Is there a way for my comments to still be recorded correctly?

Thank You, April Telles

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: April Telles [REDACTED]
To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov <environmentalcommission@torranceca.gov>; Linda Cessna <lcessna@torranceca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:20:18 PM PDT
Subject: Public Comment - Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A

Regarding The Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A:

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Leaf Blower Regulation

In reading the agenda I see the following recommendations from the **Dec 6, 2019 Commission** meeting:

- 1) Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within **one year**;

3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

and then I see this

the **Community Development Director** recommends:

1. 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
2. 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a **five** year period;
3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

I understand there are challenges but these are my concerns:

1) Taking 5 years to transition rather than 1 is **unacceptable**. This issue has been discussed for several years already. As you know several neighboring cities transitioned many years ago including Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Palos Verdes Estates. Torrance is the largest of the cities and therefore can make the largest impact to aid our environment, especially in the face of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It will also improve our air quality in general, especially for those in our community suffering from conditions such as asthma. The landscape workers themselves will benefit healthwise from the transition. Covid19 has certainly pointed out how at risk we are especially given any kind of respiratory condition often due to what we are breathing in our home communities.

I agree that city workers need to take the lead on this (and I appreciate what they have done to date) but in my opinion it needs to be rolled out to citizens as well. Even if it is difficult to enforce that doesn't mean it is not the right regulation to have. I personally would then have an argument I can use in discussions with my neighbors. Right now I have no city regulations to back me up.

2) Again, given climate change, human respiratory health, cancer risks, and noise pollution, other gas powered landscaping tools need to be included as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
April F Telles
Torrance, CA

Duncan, Nora

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote NO on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also VERY noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton

[REDACTED]

Torrance [REDACTED]

Duncan, Nora

From: Kathleen Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 4:29 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item #7a

Leaf Blowers

My name is Kathleen and I usually don't bother the city for anything. But the noise levels and fumes from leaf blowers is absurd. I can't believe that I'm actually complaining about something.

I love Torrance. It's a great change from LA, but the leaf blowers make it just as loud as the city. And I've never experienced so many of these in LA.

They go for a minimum of 45 minutes; and are used multiple times during the day within the same range, even on windy days! They are literally blowing the wind and dust, along with fumes.

It is so disturbing, especially while working from home and homeschooling. The machines are EXTREMELY LOUD, similar to tree cutters. There's no escaping the sound!

I've complained prior to the pandemic but it seems to be worse now. My entire place wreaks of fumes if I accidentally leave a window open. I know you have many issues at hand and hopefully, this isn't a huge burden to add.

There's no limit to what GOD can do!

Duncan, Nora

From: Helmut G. Fend [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

leave blowing

I am generally in favor of leave blowing.

Duncan, Nora

From: tdunn gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 6:12 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item#7a:

I support the leaf blower regulations: transitioning from gas to electric powered blowers within a year, and limiting the hours.

Although, the hours on Saturday should be later as most families like to sleep in on this day. 10:00am or 11:00am would be more ideal for the beginning of the limited time on Saturdays.

--
Tracey Dunn

Duncan, Nora

From: Bill & Fran [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 6:17 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Cc: Tim Goodrich
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Regarding tonight Item #7a: My wife and I, 40-year residents of Torrance, wish to express our strong opposition to the permitted use of leaf blowers in Torrance. We support a TOTAL BAN, or at the very minimum a well-enforced limit on decibel level and time-of-day usage.

Thank you,
Bill & Fran Arrowsmith
[REDACTED]

Duncan, Nora

From: r t [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I would like to vote to ban leaf blowers used in the City of Torrance.

Rick Taylor

[REDACTED]
Torrance Ca. [REDACTED]

Duncan, Nora

From: Daniel OSullivan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 11:27 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item #7a

I would like to see gas blowing leaf blowers replaced
With electric ones.

FW: PUBLIC COMMENT - Please ban gas eaf blowers and gas lawn mowers

Cernansky, Michelle

Thu 3/25/2021 4:21 PM

To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>; Jones, Sharron <SJones@TorranceCA.gov>; Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

-----Original Message-----

From: Kevin Gilligan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:27 PM
To: EnvironmentalCommission@torranceca.gov
Cc: Goodrich, Tim <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>; Cernansky, Michelle <MCernansky@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT - Please ban gas eaf blowers and gas lawn mowers

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hello,

My name is Kevin Gilligan. I have lived in West Torrance for 16 years.

Please ban gas leaf blowers and gas lawn mowers.

They are loud, and emit noxious fumes that are bad for the environment.

Gas leaf blowers and gas lawn mowers also make it hard to work at home. They are so loud people have a hard time hearing me on the phone or doing a zoom call when they are on.

Other cities have transitioned to battery powered leaf blowers and battery powered lawn mowers and we should too.

Thank you.

Kevin

FW: TEQECC Agenda - 04/01/21

Cernansky, Michelle

Thu 3/25/2021 4:24 PM

To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>; Jones, Sharron <SJones@TorranceCA.gov>; Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Kevin Gilligan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:31 PM
To: Cernansky, Michelle <MCernansky@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Re: TEQECC Agenda - 04/01/21

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Thank you, Michelle.

I read the agenda.

I wish to comment on the gas leaf blowers.

I clicked on the email address on the flier for public comment and received an error message. Perhaps there is a typo in the email address listed on the form? I copied it directly from the form.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE HEARING by emailing EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov and write "Public Comment" in the subject line. In the body of the email, include the item number "7A" and/or title of this item with your comments. All

This is the error message I received:

This is a system-generated message to inform you that your email could not be delivered to one or more recipients. Details of the email and the error are as follows:

<environmentalcommission@torranceca.gov>: Host or domain name not found. Name service error for name=torranceca.gov type=A: Host not found

Reporting-MTA: dns; mr85p00im-zteg06021501.me.com

X-Postfix-Queue-ID: 0428C38095E

X-Postfix-Sender: rfc822; gillie_68@icloud.com

Arrival-Date: Thu, 25 Mar 2021 22:27:01 +0000 (UTC)

Final-Recipient: rfc822; environmentalcommission@torranceca.gov

Original-Recipient: rfc822;EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov

Action: failed

Status: 5.4.4

Diagnostic-Code: X-Postfix; Host or domain name not found. Name service error
for name=torranceca.gov type=A: Host not found



RE: Gas Blowers

Jones, Sharron

Wed 3/10/2021 8:46 AM

To: CDD Info <cddinfo@TorranceCA.gov>; [REDACTED]

Cc: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

Good Morning Mr. Dan Pomerantz,

Environmental has received your information.

Thank you

Sharron Jones

Senior Environmental Quality Officer - Community Development Dept.

City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Boulevard | Torrance, CA 90503 | 310.618.5924 voice | 310.618.5922 fax

Sjones@TorranceCA.Gov | www.TorranceCA.Gov

-----Original Message-----

From: CDD Info <cddinfo@TorranceCA.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 5:23 PM

To: Jones, Sharron <SJones@TorranceCA.gov>

Cc: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: FW: Gas Blowers

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Pomerantz [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 5:08 PM

To: CDD Info <cddinfo@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Gas Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I am writing to ask that you consider reducing or banning gas blowers in the City. They create noise pollution which reduces health, property values and general well being.

It would not be that burdensome for gardeners to switch to battery operated blowers or to use a broom. Thank you.

FW: Public Comment - Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 1:38 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: April Telles [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 1:20 PM

To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov; Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Public Comment - Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A

WARNING: External e-mail

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Regarding The Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A:

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Leaf Blower Regulation

In reading the agenda I see the following recommendations from the **Dec 6, 2019 Commission** meeting:

1. 1) Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
2. 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within **one year**;
3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

and then I see this

the **Community Development Director** recommends:

1. 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
2. 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a **five** year period;
3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

I understand there are challenges but these are my concerns:

1) Taking 5 years to transition rather than 1 is **unacceptable**. This issue has been discussed for several years already. As you know several neighboring cities transitioned many years ago including Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Palos Verdes Estates. Torrance is the largest of the cities and therefore can make the largest impact to aid our environment, especially in the face of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It will also improve our air quality in general, especially for those in our community suffering from conditions such as asthma. The landscape workers themselves will benefit healthwise from the transition. Covid19 has certainly pointed out how at risk we are especially given any kind of respiratory condition often due to what we are breathing in our home communities.

I agree that city workers need to take the lead on this (and I appreciate what they have done to date) but in my opinion it needs to be rolled out to citizens as well. Even if it is difficult to enforce that doesn't mean it is not the right regulation to have. I personally would then have an argument I can use in discussions with my neighbors. Right now I have no city regulations to back me up.

2) Again, given climate change, human respiratory health, cancer risks, and noise pollution, other gas powered landscaping tools need to be included as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
April F Telles
Torrance, CA

FW: No Leaf Blowers!!

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:07 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Thalia Commins [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: No Leaf Blowers!!

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

To Whom it May Concern:

In reference to item#7a of the Environmental Quality Commission meeting tonight, please allow my email to support a ban on leaf blowers in the Torrance/South Bay area.

I have been a Torrance resident for over 25 years in the West area. In my neighborhood the amount of exhaust that rolls into my house each week from the local gardeners, takes up to an hour to clear out the smell. I know that some of my surrounding communities have already taken steps in banning leaf blowers.

Additionally, I am employed as the Staff Assistant at a TUSD Elementary School. Each week every school in TUSD has a scheduled grounds maintenance that includes 2 stroke leaf blowers. The noise, and exhaust (during school hours), cause the teachers and staff to have to close their doors.

It is because of my personal experience (AND I love my community), that is asking for support for a complete ban of leaf blowers in Torrance. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Thalia Commins

FW: PUBLIC COMMENT, Item# 7a (Leaf Blower Regulation)

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:13 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Dennis Piotrowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:09 PM
To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov
Cc: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: PUBLIC COMMENT, Item# 7a (Leaf Blower Regulation)

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hello members of the EQEC Commission:

I understand you will be voting on leaf blower regulations tonight and am respectfully urging you to vote to ban all leaf blowers in residential areas.

I attended the Commission's meeting on December 5, 2019, and along with 4 other members of the public, spoke against leaf blowers and recommended that they be banned in one form or another.

As you know, much has changed since that meeting and many more Torrance residents are working and attending school from home in these pandemic times. Thus it's more imperative than ever, and long overdue, that Torrance follow the lead of other South Bay cities and ban noisy and disruptive leaf blowers so that we are not continually disturbed and interrupted for hours at a time while trying to remain productive.

I know the city has voiced concerns about enforcement, but a ban will act as a deterrent once word spread, similar to the street sweeping fines. Any enforcement measures could then be focused on the most blatant and repeated offenders. If permitted, there could of course be an exception to the ban for City crews working on City land.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,
Dennis Piotrowski
long-time Torrance resident

FW: Public Comment - Ban Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:27 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Kevin Gilligan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:14 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Re: Public Comment - Ban Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Thank you, Linda.

Do I need to call in as well. Taking my daughter to soccer practice tonight at that time. If absolutely necessary I can, otherwise I'd prefer not too.

My wife, my son, my daughter all agree as well.

On Apr 1, 2021, at 2:10 PM, Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov> wrote:

Hi, Kevin- we have your previous correspondence and will attach this as well to be forwarded to the Commission. Thanks!! lc

From: Kevin Gilligan [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Cc: Goodrich, Tim <TGoodrich@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment - Ban Gas Powered Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

PUBLIC COMMENT #7a.

4/1/21 - This is NOT an April fools joke.

Hello,

My name is Kevin Gilligan I have been a Torrance resident for 16 years.

I am absolutely in favor of banning gas powered leaf blower's and gas powered lawnmowers.

Gas powered least lowers and lawnmowers are loud, stinky, and not good for air quality.

Many of us are working at home and will do so for the foreseeable future. The noise from these gas powered devices is ridiculously loud.

The noise is so loud, in fact, that you cannot have a phone conversation in your home while they are outside on the neighbors lawn.

Technology has now advanced to the point where it is possible to have battery powered lawnmowers and leave blowers.

I strongly encourage the city of Torrance to ban gas powered leaf blowers and gas powered lawnmowers.

Thank you,

Kevin Gilligan
West Torrance

Duncan, Nora

From: Helmut G. Fend [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 01, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission

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leave blowing

I am generally in favor of leave blowing.

FW: leaf blower vote.

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:31 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Adrian Rops [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: leaf blower vote.

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

While I agree that the noise level can be very irritating, I would also consider the fact that gardeners have to work very hard for their money and must try to save time. The leaf blowers help them do their job in the most efficient manner. Leave them alone.

Adrian Rops

FW: Public Comment, 4/1/21 Meeting

Chun, Carolyn

Thu 4/1/2021 2:54 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>; Jones, Sharron <SJones@TorranceCA.gov>; Dartois, Jana <JDartois@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Amy Josefek [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>; Chun, Carolyn <CChun@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment, 4/1/21 Meeting

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Sorry to bother you again, but I got a bounceback from the TEQECC address, saying I wasn't authorized to write to that address!

Can you make sure this goes to whoever should receive it, in time for tonight's meeting? Thank you.

Amy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Amy Josefek [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Apr 1, 2021 at 12:27 PM
Subject: Public Comment, 4/1/21 Meeting
To: <EnvironmentalCommission@torranceca.gov>
Hello TEQECC Commissioners,

I am writing re: Item 7A, Leaf Blower Regulation on tonight's agenda.

To me, this issue boils down to:

- we know it's terrible for the environment to have continuing use of gas blowers.
- we know it's not healthy for the landscape workers to be subjected to both the gas emissions and the noise during their many working hours of each day.
- we know it's annoying (and not healthy, either) for residents to be subjected to the noise of the gas blowers.

And:

- we acknowledge it would take more time for gardeners to do the work manually, likely increasing costs to the homeowner and the City.
- we acknowledge it will cost money to replace gas blowers with electric or battery-operated ones (understanding that the gas ones are more powerful, and there are limitations on the electric/battery ones. But, the technology is improving, and battery-operated equipment is far more efficient than it was just a few years ago).

At what point do we finally say, **our environment is worth the investment!?** **We, the people, are worth the investment!?**

I believe that we need to start making the switch, and now, away from gas-powered landscape equipment. We, as a society, are really good at kicking obvious problems down the road; while the issue is often about money (as it

clearly is here), we often create bigger and more costly problems by not addressing needs as soon as they become evident. Or at least, earlier on.

Whether it's continuing gas pollution into our environment, toxic fumes into our bodies, or even the exhaustion we face with the continued onslaught of noise pollution (which includes things like seemingly ever-present motorcycles, as well as the aircraft overhead), it adds up to a quality of life issue, as well as a health one for ourselves and our planet.

I'd like to see this changeover happen soon. Sooner than 5 years from now. The AQMD incentive program for new equipment is a great start, immediately reducing costs for the City and for commercial landscape companies!

At the VERY least, I would want to see an immediate action to reduce hours for gas-powered equipment.

Thank you for your work on behalf of our community.

Amy Josefek
Hollywood Riviera

FW: Item #7a

Cortez, Leslie

Thu 4/1/2021 2:59 PM

To: Jones, Sharron <SJones@TorranceCA.gov>; Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Johan Charpentier [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission <EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Item #7a

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I support regulating leaf blowers. Daily we not only are subject to their noise and dust. But the linger near our windows and gas fumes drift in until we ask them to move on. Most of these operators just blow debris into the street and leave. Please at least require use of environmentally friendly blowers with a lower decibel level.

Thank you

John Charpentier

[REDACTED]
Torrance California [REDACTED]

FW: Public Comments

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:00 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Rick Sun [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:53 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission <EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comments

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item #7a - Leaf Blower

Gasoline powered leaf blowers need to be banned due to its noise impacts, environmental impacts, and health hazards. With advancement of battery powered leaf blowers, gasoline powered leaf blowers need to be banned immediately.

-Rick Sun
Torrance Resident

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:07 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: PATRICIA MARTINI [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hello,

I'm writing in regards to the vote on Item #7a. My husband and I (10 year residents) are in favor of a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers. With the climate disasters we have been facing in recent years, we need to stop our use of fossil fuels and look for alternative energy sources.

Our preference (for reducing noise pollution) would be *no* leaf blowers, but electric leaf-blowers would be an acceptable option.

Torrance can lead the way in green energy and a more pleasant environment by instigating leaf blower regulations.

Sincerely,
Patricia and Peter Martini

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Public Comment, item 7A (Leaf blowers)

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:08 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Tim Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment, item 7A (Leaf blowers)

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

As a Torrance homeowner and father seeking a better quality of life for our community, I propose a ban on Gas-powered leaf blowers for 2 main reasons: air pollution and noise pollution. This would be in line with already existing restrictions in neighboring cities: Redondo, Hermosa, Manhattan, PV, and RPV. The 2-stroke gas engines produce very high levels of hydrocarbons and blows dust and particulates back into the air for everyone to breathe. Numerous studies have shown the significant health effects. The high-pitch sound an average blower creates is 70 to 75 dB at 50 feet away. That is already 15 dB (or 32 times) over the current 55 dB noise ordinance at property borders. The psychological and social effects of the high noise are difficult to measure and affect some people more than others. Some may claim the noise duration is brief, however that is not always the case. Some residents currently use leaf-blowers daily or for an excessive period of time. I suggest enforcement be complaint-based and the homeowner, not the gardener should pay the fine. Although a law is difficult to enforce does not mean we should then just allow it. For example pouring chemicals down the street drains is difficult to enforce but should remain a law to help prevention. A simple rake and broom are just as effective in removing leaves and dust and also provides a more controlled way to get it into the green yard-waste bins. We live in a beautiful but populated place. Please take action on this matter, to preserve a more peaceful and healthier Torrance community.

Thanks,
Tim Johnson

FW: Public Comment Item #7a regarding banning leaf blowers in Torrance

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:19 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Judy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment Item #7a regarding banning leaf blowers in Torrance

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Dear Torrance Environmental Commission,

This is for Item #7a regarding banning leaf blowers in Torrance. **I strongly support the banning leaf blowers in Torrance.**

The leaf blowers can result in the following environmental impacts

- Noise pollution.
- Air Pollution. Gas powered leaf blowers emit pollutants similar to cars. The odor produced is not pleasant to anyone around especially the operator. Electric powered leaf blowers may not be as noisy but still stir up the dust and debris (including old animal feces) into the environment as the Gas Powered ones. One may not see the dust, but it is there.
- Electric Battery-powered leaf blowers have the issue of battery disposal. Throwing batteries away could lead to polluted groundwater and soil.

As a person suffering from Asthma, to prevent any triggers to my condition while I am walking outside, I always avoid walking in areas where I see leaf blowers being operated. Furthermore, in most cases, the dust and debris are blown away from the sidewalk onto the street and never collected. The use of the leaf blowers defeat the purpose of keeping the street clean. In addition, leaf blowers use both oil and gasoline, the fuel is another potential hazard. If the fuel leaks, that's another environmental problem. Therefore, I strongly support the banning of leaf blowers usage in Torrance. Thank you

Sincerely,
Judy Hong

--
have a great day!

Judy

Fw: Public Comment Leaf Blower

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:25 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Kathleen Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:23 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment Leaf Blower

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hi Linda,

I hope you have been doing great, despite this crazy time. I received a newsletter regarding submitting a public comment on leaf blowers. Here is mine. Thank you so much!

Re: Leaf Blowers

My name is Kathleen and I usually don't bother the city for anything. But the noise levels and fumes from leaf blowers is absurd. I can't believe that I'm actually complaining about something.

I love Torrance. It's a great change from LA, but the leaf blowers make it just as loud as the city. And I've never experienced so many of these in LA.

They go for a minimum of 45 minutes; and are used multiple times during the day within the same range.

It is so disturbing, especially while working from home and homeschooling. The machines are EXTREMELY LOUD, similar to tree cutters. There's no escaping the sound!

I've complained prior to the pandemic but it seems to be worse now. My entire place wrecks of fumes if I accidentally leave a window open. I know you have many issues at hand and hopefully, this isn't a huge burden to add.

There's no limit to what GOD can do!

Fw: Leaf Blower Regulations.

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:26 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Brenda Short [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blower Regulations.

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I would like to see a ban on gasoline powered leaf blowers which pollute the air and just spread the debris onto adjacent properties. They are also noisy and smelly.

Thank you,

Brenda Short.

[REDACTED]
Torrance CA [REDACTED]

Fw: Public Comment Item #7a Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:30 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment Item #7a Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I support leaf blower regulations (a ban or otherwise)

Would like to see the gas powered banned and limited to hours of operation for electric, 9-5pm. Using gas leaf blowers could be a misdemeanor. They are too noisy everywhere everyday.

Bans on gas-powered leaf blowers were passed into law in Manhattan Beach in 2011 and in Hermosa Beach since the early 1990s. Redondo Beach passed its first ordinance in 1986,. Why has it taken Torrance so long?

Thank you for your attention and taking action on this matter.

Kelly Wedel

South Torrance Resident since 1996

FW: LEAF BLOWERS

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:20 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Carl R Kunreuther [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: LEAF BLOWERS

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Speaking for those in the Springwood condominiums, the gardeners use those loud machines to blow accumulated dust and dirt on the driveways from one place to another, occasionally taking along a leaf or two. Get rid of the polluting blowers!

Carl Kunreuther
[REDACTED]

FW: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:52 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

-----Original Message-----

From: Bill Cunningham-Corso

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:52 PM

To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please BAN these devises. Air pollution- noise pollution.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

FW: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:56 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote NO on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also VERY noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton

[REDACTED]
Torrance [REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:19 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Bill Cunningham-Corso [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:51 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please BAN these devises. Air pollution- noise pollution.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:22 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Tom Patton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:55 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please vote NO on any further use of leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. I have watched gardeners blowing grass and leaves out into the street and become someone else's problem. They are also VERY noisy.

Thank you,

Thomas Patton

[REDACTED]
Torrance [REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:23 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Ellen Peterson [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:05 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Ban Leaf Blowers in Torrance

[Ellen Peterson](#)

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:27 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Gary Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I am a 35 year resident of Torrance and I live in the Walteria area.

I am disturbed many times each week not only by the leaf blower noise, but by the pollution that comes with the use of those small gasoline engines.

I strongly support a measure to outlaw gasoline powered leaf blowers in the city of Torrance.

Thanks for your service.

Gary Hart

[REDACTED] Torrance, [REDACTED]

Fw: LEAF BLOWERS

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:31 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Phil Shelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:46 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: LEAF BLOWERS

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Leaf blowers are noisy and polute more than the small size of the motors would seem to suggest. The noise can be really disturbing. Especially in close proximity in residential areas. The pollution is significant and pollution is something that should be eliminated whenever possible. I do feel for the people who use leaf blowers in their work. With lawn services the leaf blowers are used between houses and to blow driveways and sidewalks clean. Lots of dirt is rendered airborne and people with respiratory illness suffer. Sometime greatly. One thing that people seldom think of is that along with airborne dirt come airborne seeds. I used to wonder why I always had plenty of weeds even though I really tried to keep them pulled. I think that with few exceptions leaf blowers should be banned. Perhaps some larger commercial areas or sports fields could be exempted after study is made of the impact of the leaf blowers used in that area. The leaf blowers should also be relegated to special hours and not on the weekend.

Phillip Shelton

--

Hope is a longing for a future condition over which you have no agency

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:34 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Sue Siani [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:35 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

I realize this is pretty late in the day to send this. I apologize, I just found out it was on the agenda for tonight.

I would like to express my disdain for the ridiculous amount of noise I'm routinely subjected to by leaf blowers. They are way too noisy and disruptive. Please pass an ordinance against them.

Thanks,

Sue Siani

Torrance Resident

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:38 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Monica Fredericks [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 3:02 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Please ban gas powered leaf blowers. They are a noise nuisance as well as an environmental hazard for many who have respiratory issues. By design they slosh together a mixture of gasoline and oil in the combustion chamber and then spews out as much as one third of that fuel as a burned aerosol. Blowers also blow dust, molds, pollen and debris into the air not cleaning the area but just moving it to another inconspicuous area.

Thank you for taking the time to read and listen.

Sincerely,

Monica Fredericks
[REDACTED]

Torrance, CA [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:40 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Cornwell [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 7:24 AM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

As a Torrance resident since 1964, there is nothing more annoying than the whine of a leaf blower putting dust and debris into the air we breathe. Why not the old-fashioned broom and dust pan?

I support a ban on leaf blowers in Torrance.

David W. Cornwell, Esq.
[REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blowers

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:40 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Cornwell [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 7:24 AM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Leaf Blowers

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

As a Torrance resident since 1964, there is nothing more annoying than the whine of a leaf blower putting dust and debris into the air we breathe. Why not the old-fashioned broom and dust pan?

I support a ban on leaf blowers in Torrance.

David W. Cornwell, Esq.
[REDACTED]

FW: Public comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:08 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Gayle C. Kirma [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:03 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

RE: #7a

Hello!

This is my third email today re this issue of banning leaf blowers.

We vote to BAN LEAF BLOWERS. We believe they are air and leaf polluters and not effective.

Thank you!

Gayle Kirma
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:15 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: sandra holliday [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:12 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Item #7a:

I am against leafblowers in Torrance.

Reasons:

- Air Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Damage caused to native butterflies and other beneficial insects & wildlife

Much of the mess is left in the gutter for street sweepers anyway who are paid with taxpayer dollars.

I would much rather go back to the broom concept than continue to put up with this blow and go yard maintenance. (Better exercise means better health!)

If quarantine has taught us nothing else... it has reinforced the reality that this past year has proven to us; our air is indeed cleaner, our neighborhoods are much quieter and more peaceful with less traffic, airplanes, etc. The fact is there is a less stressful, overall improvement in the quality of life for all citizens to live in a cleaner and calmer environment. My vote is to continue to make incremental improvements and do all we can to strive to live like on a daily basis.

Thank you.
Sandra Holliday

FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:21 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

From: Noreen Wenjen [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:20 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission <EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

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Item 7A

Dear Environmental Commission,

I have a home-based business teaching classical piano. I want to approve banning gas powered leaf blowers and lawnmowers. They are very loud and disruptive to my business and are very loud on our quiet street when they are on sporadically throughout the day during the week and on the weekends in west Torrance.

Thank you for your consideration!

[REDACTED]

Noreen Wenjen, NCTM
Piano Teacher • Author • Entrepreneur

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
CAPMT Immediate Past President • MTNA SW Div. Director-Elect • MTACSB CM Senior
Medallion Chair | RCM Certified • MTNA Nationally Certified • Steinway Educational Partner

[REDACTED]



"Teach with the passion of a professional musician; run your studio with the heart of an entrepreneur!" —Noreen Wenjen



FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 2:33 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For supplemental

-----Original Message-----

From: Diane Salter [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:10 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Cc: Bill Salter [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment

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Item #7a Tonight's Environmental Quality Commission meeting.

We support a total ban on leaf blowers in the city of Torrance, and respectfully request the Commission vote in favor of a total ban.

Thank you.

Diane Salter
William Salter
Torrance, CA [REDACTED]

FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:03 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

Importance: High

For supplemental

From: JoanAnn Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission <EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Public Comment
Importance: High

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"Item #7A"

I would like to ban leaf blowers the use of in Torrance. From what I see on a continual basis, the gardeners just blow the debris to another spot in the street or property. They don't pick up the leaves or debris but send it out and even blowing into the water drains. We have the street cleaners who are doing their best to keep debris out of our water drains and we as public citizens need to move our cars every week. However the gardens use the leaf blowers as a way to speed up their jobs and it seems that they don't realize how it is impacting our environment.

Sincerely,
JoanAnn Hart

[REDACTED]
Torrance, CA [REDACTED]

FW: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Thu 4/1/2021 3:05 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for supplemental

From: H Gerhardt [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 3:04 PM

To: Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission <EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.gov>; [REDACTED]

Subject: Public Comment

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re: Item #7a

Please ban leaf blowers in the city of Torrance. All of our neighboring cities have enacted bans already, and for good reason: these machines stir up fine airborne particulates which are especially bad for our children's developing lungs. In addition to the fine particulates, the 2-stroke engines which power the majority of these machines create as much pollution as several dozen modern cars and trucks at once.

Remember that the nationwide drive to ban diesel engines is largely due to fine particulates in the exhaust. Why would we allow more particulates to be created when it's easy to just say NO to leaf blowers?

Best regards,
Heinrich Gerhardt
Torrance [REDACTED]

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:33 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: tdunn gmail [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment

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Item#7a:

I support the leaf blower regulations: transitioning from gas to electric powered blowers within a year, and limiting the hours. Although, the hours on Saturday should be later as most families like to sleep in on this day. 10:00am or 11:00am would be more ideal for the beginning of the limited time on Saturdays.

--

Tracey Dunn

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:35 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Isaac Elisaldez [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 7:08 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

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Re: Item #7a

Dear City Leadership,

I support a full ban on leaf blowers. They create noise pollution that disturbs people and pets. They create air pollution in the forms of dust, detritus and engine exhaust. And the users only blow material from one place to another, it is never picked up and disposed of. For example, a lawnmower machine has a bag to catch the cut grass and the person mowing would go ahead and take the grass and dispose of it properly with green waste. But a person using a leaf blower only pushes refuse from one place to another, all while causing various forms of pollution and disturbance to residents. Leaf blowers are the bane of all neighborhoods. Please ban them here in Torrance.

Thank you, Isaac Elisaldez

Fw: public comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:36 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Gloria Balcom [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 5:18 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: public comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Re Item #7a: I would like to see the use of leaf blowers banned in Torrance. In addition to the constant noise, they dirty the air and contribute significantly to allergies.

Gloria Balcom

[REDACTED]
Redondo Beach, CA

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:37 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for june

From: Daniel OSullivan [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021 11:27 PM

To: Cessna, Linda

Subject: Public Comment

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Item #7a

I would like to see gas blowing leaf blowers replace

With electric ones.

Fw: Public Comment

Cessna, Linda

Fri 4/2/2021 8:45 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

am thinking this one may be In the envcomm mail box, but don't have access from home.

From: Tim Goodrich [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, April 2, 2021 8:14 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: FW: Public Comment

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Bill & Fran [REDACTED]
Date: 4/1/21 6:16 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov
Cc: Tim Goodrich [REDACTED]
Subject: Public Comment

Regarding tonight Item #7a: My wife and I, 40-year residents of Torrance, wish to express our strong opposition to the permitted use of leaf blowers in Torrance. We support a TOTAL BAN, or at the very minimum a well-enforced limit on decibel level and time-of-day usage.

Thank you,
Bill & Fran Arrowsmith
[REDACTED]

FW: My public comment for the 4/1/21 Environmental Quality Commission's meeting was truncated in the Supplemental7AApril12021

Cessna, Linda

Wed 4/7/2021 10:20 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>; Dartois, Jana <JDartois@TorranceCA.gov>;

I did not get to see the supplemental- can we verify below and make sure we get the full text into the supplemental for June? Thanks! lc

From: April Telles [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, April 4, 2021 6:39 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: My public comment for the 4/1/21 Environmental Quality Commission's meeting was truncated in the Supplemental7AApril12021

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Hi Linda, If you compare the Supplemental7AApril12021 file to my original email, most of my email was truncated.

The only part included was just my cut and paste of commission recommendations. My personal comments did not make it into the Supplemental file. Is there a way for my comments to still be recorded correctly?

Thank You, April Telles

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: April Telles [REDACTED]
To: EnvironmentalCommission@TorranceCA.Gov <environmentalcommission@torranceca.gov>; Linda Cessna <lcessna@torranceca.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:20:18 PM PDT
Subject: Public Comment - Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A

Regarding The Torrance Environmental Quality Commission's meeting 4/1/21 Agenda Item 7A:

7. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

A. Leaf Blower Regulation

In reading the agenda I see the following recommendations from the **Dec 6, 2019 Commission** meeting:

- 1) Limit hours of operation to 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday;
- 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within **one year**;

3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

and then I see this

the **Community Development Director** recommends:

1. 1) Limit hours of leaf blower operation to mirror construction hours;
2. 2) Ban gas leaf blowers and transition to electric leaf blowers within a **five** year period;
3. 3) Examine the possibility of procuring South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) funding to aid in the transition; and
4. 4) Perform public education outreach.

I understand there are challenges but these are my concerns:

1) Taking 5 years to transition rather than 1 is **unacceptable**. This issue has been discussed for several years already. As you know several neighboring cities transitioned many years ago including Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, and Palos Verdes Estates. Torrance is the largest of the cities and therefore can make the largest impact to aid our environment, especially in the face of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It will also improve our air quality in general, especially for those in our community suffering from conditions such as asthma. The landscape workers themselves will benefit healthwise from the transition. Covid19 has certainly pointed out how at risk we are especially given any kind of respiratory condition often due to what we are breathing in our home communities.

I agree that city workers need to take the lead on this (and I appreciate what they have done to date) but in my opinion it needs to be rolled out to citizens as well. Even if it is difficult to enforce that doesn't mean it is not the right regulation to have. I personally would then have an argument I can use in discussions with my neighbors. Right now I have no city regulations to back me up.

2) Again, given climate change, human respiratory health, cancer risks, and noise pollution, other gas powered landscaping tools need to be included as well.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
April F Telles
Torrance, CA

FW: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

Cessna, Linda

Tue 4/27/2021 4:52 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

From: Marilyn van Oppen [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Re: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Thank you for this opportunity to tell you what I think about the leaf blowers many gardeners and homeowners use.

Please add my name to your list of people who want the use of gas powered leaf blowers Illegal in Torrance. They are big contributors to noise and air pollution in our city. Electric or battery powered leaf blowers are much better for the environment.

Marilyn van Oppen

[REDACTED]
Torrance, California
[REDACTED]

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From: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:43:35 PM
Subject: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

You are receiving this e-mail because you have expressed interest in leaf blower regulation in the City of Torrance. This is to let you know that the Environmental Quality Commission will be discussing leaf blowers at their meeting on May 6. If you previously sent correspondence that was not received in time for the April meeting, it will be attached to the May item. The agenda and item will be forwarded to list recipients on Friday of this week. Any additional correspondence received by this Wednesday will be included with the item; correspondence received after Wednesday but before 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting will be forwarded to the commission in a supplemental prior to the meeting.

Our apologies if you receive this e-mail twice; we are working from two separate lists and did not want to miss anyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Linda Cessna, Deputy Community Development Director
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance CA | 90503

310.618.5930 | lcessna@torranceca.gov

FW: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

Cessna, Linda

Tue 4/27/2021 5:18 PM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

For item

From: Gayle C. Kirma [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Subject: Re: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

WARNING: External e-mail

Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Thank you Linda.

I did send an email stating my objections to allowing leaf blowers and want to send it again now in time for the upcoming discussion.

In brief, leaf blowers are noise and air pollutants and I believe they should be banned in Torrance and Redondo Beach.

Gayle Kirma
[REDACTED]

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, 2:41 PM, Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov> wrote:

You are receiving this e-mail because you have expressed interest in leaf blower regulation in the City of Torrance. This is to let you know that the Environmental Quality Commission will be discussing leaf blowers at their meeting on May 6. If you previously sent correspondence that was not received in time for the April meeting, it will be attached to the May item. The agenda and item will be forwarded to list recipients on Friday of this week. Any additional correspondence received by this Wednesday will be included with the item; correspondence received after Wednesday but before 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting will be forwarded to the commission in a supplemental prior to the meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Linda Cessna, Deputy Community Development Director

City of Torrance| 3031 Torrance Blvd| Torrance CA| 90503

310.618.5930|lcessna@torranceca.gov

Fw: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

Cessna, Linda

Wed 4/28/2021 7:31 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for leaf blower item

From: dicknor@juno.com [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 8:51 PM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Re: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

WARNING: External e-mail
Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

To follow up on my last letter regarding Leaf Blowers.
For the short time gardeners use these machines, the rewards out way the noise.
Cleaner yards.
Easier and faster for gardeners, keeping cost down.
Neighborhoods look well kept.
I vote to keep Leaf Blowers blowing.
Some people not in favor may just be thinking of themselves.
I am thinking of hardworking gardeners.
Senior neighbors who are unable to garden themselves and the ones who may not be able to afford the increase in cost due to extra time involved to keep their property tidy.
The extra work that street cleaning truck will have once all those leaves get wind blown into the street.
A little noise is worth it all.

Thanks for listening.
Christine Norris

[REDACTED]

Fw: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

Cessna, Linda

Wed 4/28/2021 11:11 AM

To: Duncan, Nora <NDuncan@TorranceCA.gov>;

for item

From: David Reams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:57 AM
To: Cessna, Linda
Subject: Re: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

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Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

Thank you for the information.

If this is the appropriate method to relay my opinion, here it is:

Leaf blowers do serve a purpose! While the main complaint may be noise, so are the trucks that pick up trash cans to empty them, as well as, street sweeping.

I'm opposed to an outright ban, but, I do believe their use could be limited to certain days of the week just as parking restrictions limit hours and days to parking on certain days. Let the gardeners figure out their routes based on any day restrictions or hour restrictions that are necessary. That is, if any restriction is required at all!

Best regards

David Reams
[REDACTED]

From: Cessna, Linda <LCESSNA@TorranceCA.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 2:43 PM
Subject: Leaf Blower Discussion at TEQECC May 6

You are receiving this e-mail because you have expressed interest in leaf blower regulation in the City of Torrance. This is to let you know that the Environmental Quality Commission will be discussing leaf blowers at their meeting on May 6. If you previously sent correspondence that was not received in time for the April meeting, it will be attached to the May item. The agenda and item will be forwarded to list recipients on Friday of this week. Any additional correspondence received by this Wednesday will be included with the item; correspondence received after Wednesday but before 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting will be forwarded to the commission in a supplemental prior to the meeting.

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If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Linda Cessna, Deputy Community Development Director
City of Torrance | 3031 Torrance Blvd | Torrance CA | 90503
310.618.5930 | lcessna@torranceca.gov

Commissioners – Zoom Etiquette

(1) When Commissioners join the meeting, they should not engage in conversation (especially items such as politics or anything coming before). They should be on mute when they join the meeting other than to do a sound check.

- When they are identified as Commissioners, they represent the City of Torrance and should be considerate of that at all times.
- Gentle reminder that just like during in-person meetings, members of the public may be listening in and/or recording the meeting.

(2) Since the **Civil Service** Commission is on video during hearings, they should have their entire face visible.

- Try to find a spot with good lighting so that you are seen clearly on video during virtual meetings, and make sure that when you are on camera you are identifiable.

(3) Commissions may want to consider using a City provided background during their meetings for consistency and/or security purposes.

(4) Utilize the “raise your hand” feature when you would like to be called on to speak.

- Microphones should be muted when not in use. This will avoid background noise, distraction, spouse/child/pet interruption, etc.

(5) For purposes of the record, do not speak over another commissioner, attorney, or speaker.

(6) Refrain from any perceived bias by treating all parties equally and with respect.

- Consider tone, language, and topic of conversation(s) when communicating with members of the public in your capacity as a Commissioner
- Consider that non-verbal communication during virtual meetings may be perceived differently than during in-person meetings

(7) If you are provided a script by staff, you should read the script since there may be legal implications if they do not. Of course, there are times during a hearing when the script may need to change and in that case, staff will advise of you to revise the script

(8) Log in 15 minutes before the meeting so staff can do a sound check/video check and everyone can be ready to go at the start of the meeting

Other Considerations

- Consider public perception of content shared publicly on social media
- Please maintain professional conduct, including appropriate dress. Professional attire should be worn, just like during an in-person meeting.
- If you are uncomfortable being on camera, consider using an appropriate still profile photo
- Even if the meeting is in public session, please avoid having friends/family/pets sit next to you on screen.

- Closed Session meetings should be treated as they would in-person and no one else should be listening in or participating other than Commissioners, designated staff, etc.

Quasi-judicial bodies such as the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission are like judges or jury, which would never eat, sleep, or do any activity that shows they are not paying close attention to the evidence. A Commissioner that falls asleep, is distracted (eating, etc.), or otherwise not paying attention during a hearing could be grounds to have the Commission's decision overturned by a court.