
*Leaf Blower Noise & Pollution Abatement in Newport Beach
October 2009*

1. Should leaf blowers be controlled for noise and pollution emissions in Newport Beach? If so, how (outright equipment ban, more stringent standards, more restricted hours of operation, permitting operation only on certain days by neighborhood)?
 2. Should commercial gardeners have different guidelines/restrictions than residential gardeners?
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Background

The City's Environmental Quality Affairs Committee (EQAC) has been studying noise and pollution issues created by leaf blowers and similar equipment in communities like Corona del Mar where homes are in close proximity to each other. They have also been looking at what other cities (Laguna Beach, Claremont, Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Menlo Park, Santa Barbara, Carmel, etc.) have done to curb and/or control the noise and pollution this machinery generates. EQAC is in the process of putting together their findings for a presentation to City Council at a Study Session sometime in the near future. To read EQAC's Report, go to <http://cdmra.org/docs/FeedbackLeafblowersEQAC0910.pdf>

At this time, it is our understanding that EQAC is limiting their study to only gardeners working on residential properties. Any noise or pollution controlling recommendations EQAC makes will **exclude** landscape companies working on commercial property, including "common areas" within communities governed by Homeowner Associations. What that means is that gardeners working on parks or frontage property within homeowner communities will not be covered by EQAC recommendations, nor will gardeners who work in places like Fashion Island, Pelican Hills Resort and City parks.

Therefore, CdMRA feels that our poll should be a two-part question; one which determines whether and/or what kind of controls might be appropriate and one which determines whether the rules should apply across the board to all gardeners or only to gardeners who work on residential properties.

Response Options

In the past, CdMRA has conducted “Resident Feedback Polls” on this topic. We would like to update our poll so that we can articulate the current consensus opinion of our members at future Study Sessions.

We encourage you to circulate this information to other interested residents, and have them email in their responses and comments. If they do not have access to email, they may leave a voice mail message.

Send your email response to: Info@Cdmra.org

Phone your response to: 949.719.9390

Your name, address and email (or phone number) is required for tabulation purposes.