



DATE: May 10, 2021

AGENDA ITEM # 5

TO: Environmental Commission
FROM: Emiko Ancheta, Staff Liaison
SUBJECT: AB 1346 Legislation Small Off-Road Engines (SORE)

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss Environmental Commission endorsement of AB 1346

BACKGROUND

The Small Off-Road Engines (SORE) bill would prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines, as it is defined by the state board. The requirements would be effective by July 1, 2022.

According to the California Legislation Information “This bill would require the state board...to adopt cost-effective and technologically feasible regulations to prohibit engine exhaust and evaporative emissions from new small off-road engines, as defined by the state board. The bill would require the state board to identify and, to the extent feasible, make available funding for commercial rebate or similar incentive funding as part of any updates to existing applicable funding program guidelines to local air pollution control districts and air quality management districts to implement to support the transition to zero-emission small off-road equipment operations.”

DISCUSSION

Review and discuss draft endorsement letter for AB 1346.

Attachments:

- A. Draft Endorsement Letter
- B. [AB 1346 Link](#)



**1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087**

The City of Los Altos Environmental Commission is pleased to endorse AB 1346 which would prohibit the sale of gas-powered small off-road engines (SORE).

As the first community in the Bay Area to prohibit the use of Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers in 1991, Los Altos has been a leader in the effort to reduce the noise and air pollution caused by this equipment. Unfortunately, thirty years later, it is still a struggle to enforce this code at the local level. A state-wide ban would provide a clear path to removing these engines from use in our communities.

SORE devices contribute a disproportionate amount of harmful emissions into our communities, including Nitrogen Oxides and particulate matter. These pollutants pose significant health impacts not only to our residents, but more so to our landscape service providers who are exposed to them for hours a day. NOx and particulates also contribute to the formation of smog which has negative health impacts and is particularly harmful to children.

The City of Los Altos is proud of its residents' efforts to reduce vehicle emissions through their high electric vehicle ownership rates. As a City we have also realized significant emission reductions thanks to the carbon-free electricity provided by our electricity provider, Silicon Valley Community Energy. We are also working to reduce future emission by adopting Reach Codes that limit natural gas and increasing EV Charging capacity in new buildings. The Environmental Commission welcomes the state's leadership in additional ways to substantially reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

Sincerely,

City of Los Altos Environmental Commission