

July 27, 2010

Honorable Judge Charles S. Crandall, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
1050 Monterey Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Subject: **2009/2010 San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury Report:**
 LEAF BLOWER HAZARDS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

The County Grand Jury has issued a report entitled *LEAF BLOWER HAZARDS IN SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY* concerning the use of two-cycle gasoline engine leaf blowers in the cities and unincorporated areas of San Luis Obispo County, and the health hazard presented by these leaf blowers. The report included three recommendations which are intended to limit the days and hours of operation allowed for leaf blower use, and create a gradual phase-out of all two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers within the County and the incorporated cities within San Luis Obispo County.

The Grand Jury has requested the City of Atascadero provide a formal response to Recommendation 3. The Recommendation and the Atascadero City Council formal responses are below.

Grand Jury Recommendation #3

Each incorporated city within San Luis Obispo County adopt a parallel ordinance (regarding restriction of days and hours of operation allowed for leaf blower use, and a gradual two year phase-out of all two-cycle gasoline powered leaf blowers) to ensure consistency throughout the county.

City Council Response to Recommendation #3

Summary

- The City understands the concerns regarding the use of leaf blowers, however, at this time it is not fiscally reasonable to adopt an ordinance specifically regulating leaf blower use.

Analysis

The Atascadero City Council understands the Grand Jury's concerns regarding the use of leaf blowers. However, leaf blower use has not been raised as an issue in the City of Atascadero. This is possibly due to Atascadero's large lots, rural landscape and oak woodlands.

Since the City continues to face significant fiscal challenges and staff reductions, the City must be very selective in identifying priorities. At this time, we do not agree that of an ordinance specifically regulating the use of leaf blowers is warranted or reasonable given the potential expense related to the enforcement of such an ordinance.

Very truly yours,

Roberta Fonzi
Mayor

xc: San Luis Obispo County Grand Jury