

November 2, 2021

Mayor Kathleen Ward, San Clemente, California:

Reference: <https://www.danapointtimes.com/state-san-clemente-dana-point-address-leaf-blowers-different-angles/>

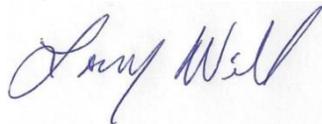
I believe your new leaf blower ordinance has issues. I wrote you a [letter](#) in September explaining why quiet gasoline-powered leaf blowers should be allowed. The only thing you took away from my letter is that quiet leaf blowers are 65 dB(A) per an ANSI Standard. This standard, by the way, is only a procedure for testing leaf blowers. It makes no requirement for blowers to be 65 dB(A), as your regulation claims, according to the referenced article.

So, you are allowing battery-powered leaf blowers in your new ordinance, provided they are at a sound level of 65 dB(A) or less. The problem is, to my knowledge, the only blowers of this type that will meet this requirement are those manufactured by one manufacturer, effectively preventing all other leaf blower manufacturers from conducting business in your city. If you feel differently, please send me a list of qualifying products for my records. If I am right, this seems unfair. It should be, and perhaps it is, illegal to write laws that only allow the sale and use of products manufactured by one favored company.

Further, how are you going to determine which battery blowers meet the 65 dB(A) requirement without a label on the unit to refer to. These [labels](#) are only found on gasoline-powered units. Your new regulation is therefore unenforceable.

The entire justification for the banning of gasoline-powered leaf blowers makes no sense. You cite exhaust emission, yet batteries need to be charged via energy from power plants that can create hydrocarbon and carbon dioxide emissions. You cite dust, yet battery-powered leaf blowers have the same potential for generating dust. You cite noise, yet, except for one, [battery-powered blowers are noisier](#) than the quietest gas-powered blower. Since noise is actually the issue, why are you not allowing quiet gasoline-powered units.

Regards,



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