

Environmental Commission  
SORES Sub Committee  
August 6, 2021  
Summary Report  
Submitted by Vice Chair Shillan, Commissioner Fredericks-Ploussard

This sub-committee was formed from discussions from the May 4<sup>th</sup> Environmental Commission meeting. The object was to review the opportunities in Calabasas to utilize and or require electric powered landscape equipment vs. traditional gas-powered equipment. The presentation from A Blue Sky Foundation focusing on SORES in our City was a part of the meeting agenda and why we took up the topic.

There was an extensive discussion at the May 26<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting regarding the matter this sub-committee was formed to review. It was discussed that the Public Works department is well into the bidding and contract process with contractors to utilize electric SORES equipment for municipal use. Additionally, they are working with HOA's to implement at that level.

When we received this issue at the Commission meeting, there was no communication as to how far this process has already gone. Apparently at the request of a High School student and a few callers in Fall of 2020, it was decided to move forward to implement. This sub-committee cannot provide meaningful input based on evaluating moving forward, this was acknowledged and confirmed by commission liaison Alex Farasatti. However, based on research that we conducted, the discussion at the City Council Meeting and Vice Chair Shillan's discussion with Councilmember Kraut, we have this information to submit in order to provide meaningful input. As noted, the city is already obtaining quotes on moving municipal services to electric equipment for landscaping, we highlight other supportive actions to consider:

- 1) When Electric only is in place from the municipal standpoint, actions can occur to obtain classification as a Green Zone with AGZA. Information can be found at <https://agza.net/about-us/>
- 2) In preparation, staff can become familiar with compliance requirements should new Assembly bill AB1346 pass, bill details:  
[https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=202120220AB1346](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1346)

*UPDATE: October 9<sup>th</sup>, after the report was issued, Governor Newsom signed this bill into law. Compliance begins July 2022 with goal to eliminate gas powered SORES by 2024.*

- 3) Enacting a city-wide ban/change as proposed by A Blue Sky Foundation should be studied by the Public Works department and new bill considered as well prior to any change. We do encourage an effort to inform City residents and commercial landscapers who use this equipment, to consider moving to electric only. The city can begin an information campaign by utilizing existing communications methods in place within the city's communications group, including:
  - a. Information added to City website
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> day of month newsletters
  - c. Email notifications
  - d. Social media.

Residents can be informed of the benefits of migrating to electric equipment and how this is an environmentally responsible action. Initially they can be directed to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment program for information and rebate options. Program details here: <http://www.agmd.gov/home/programs/community/community-detail?title=lawn-equipment>. As new information is gathered, it can be integrated into the notifications.