

To: Matt Rexroad, Chair
and Members of the Board of Directors

From: Mat Ehrhardt, P.E., Executive Director/APCO

Date: January 13, 2010

Subject: Yolo Solano Mower Exchange Program for 2010

Recommended Action

- A. Approve and authorize the Yolo Solano Mower Exchange Program for 2010 as presented.
- B. Approve and authorize the APCO to sign Agreement No. 10-02 with Country Home Products, Inc. (Neuton ®) to provide the electric lawnmowers as part of the program.

Reason For Recommended Action

The purpose of the program is to provide an incentive for the replacement of existing gasoline powered lawn mowing equipment with electric lawn mowers. This program will also increase public awareness about the contribution of lawn and garden equipment to air pollution. The financial incentive is intended to help offset the incremental cost of the newer electric technology.

Through this program, the District will partner with the BAAQMD so that all residents in Yolo and Solano counties will be eligible to obtain incentives for a program that helps reduce ozone precursor emissions. In the on-going Sacramento regional mower exchange program, Solano County residents in the BAAQMD jurisdiction are not eligible to participate.

Background

Up until 2004, YSAQMD partnered with the BAAQMD and Solano County to provide a mower exchange program for all Solano County residents. BAAQMD discontinued their funding of the program and the program was discontinued. We re-established the program in 2008. This program allows not only Yolo county residents but also allows all Solano county residents to participate.

The Yolo Solano Mower Exchange Program is a unique cooperative effort reflecting a partnership between two air districts that share the same county (Solano) as well as other financial and in-kind (staff) contributors. The District is responsible for overseeing all program components including solicitation for the manufacturer partner, marketing and other administrative details.

In 2009, the District was able to exchange 321 gas mowers with electric mowers under the Yolo Solano program. The VOC/NOx emissions were reduced by 1.29 ton/year.

It is anticipated that approximately 480 mowers will be available in 2010 for residents of Yolo and Solano counties. Under the program, the District's contribution for the reduction in price for the mowers will \$100 per mower.

Process

Customers will register via an online reservation or a toll-free number for the 2010 exchange program with Neuton ®. Neuton ® will collect names and addresses and forward this information to the District. Eligible participants will receive a coupon from the District and information describing how they are to turn in their used gas mowers at a designated location. Participants may use the coupon to purchase a Neuton ® mower

at a discount directly from Neuton ® once they have turned in their gas mowers. Orders are placed via the Neuton ® call center. The sale prices for participants are: Model CE 5.4 is \$189; and for Model CE 6.4 \$279.

The tentative dates of the program will run March 23, 2010 through May 30, 2010, until all mowers are claimed or the coupons have expired.

Budget Impacts

Our contribution of \$17,000 was approved by the Board of Directors as part of the final budget for FY 2009/2010, \$5,000 from the General Fund (Fund 421) restricted settlement reserves and \$12,000 from Solano County AB8 Fund (Fund 423). Other funding includes \$5,000 from Solano County. We have also applied for grants: ARB for up to \$25,000; BAAQMD for \$10,000; and we are working on receiving funding from PG&E for approximately \$10,000. The estimated total available is at \$67,000 for the Yolo Solano program.

Other Agency Involvement

Both Yolo and Solano Counties are providing in-kind services for the recycling component of the program.

District Counsel has approved Agreement No. 10-02 to form.

Attachment: Agreement No. 10-02