

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 4, 2026

AGENDA NO. 7

PROPOSAL: Approve Additional Funds for Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program

SYNOPSIS: The Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program provides rebates to residents for the purchase of new battery-electric lawn and garden equipment. Since 2017, the program has helped residents replace gasoline-powered equipment with zero-emission alternatives, resulting in emission reductions throughout the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction. In September 2024, the Board approved the addition of \$500,000 and the expansion of the program to include additional equipment categories, including battery-electric leaf blowers, trimmers, chainsaws, and edgers. Continued interest and participation in the program have increased demand for available rebate funding, and program funds are nearly exhausted. Staff recommends allocating up to \$500,000 from the Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27) to continue the Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program.

COMMITTEE: Technology, August 21, 2026; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Allocate up to \$500,000 from the Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27) for the Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program.

Wayne Natri
Executive Officer

Background

Since April 2017, South Coast AQMD has implemented the Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program to encourage the replacement of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment with battery-electric alternatives. Residents within the South Coast AQMD jurisdiction may receive a rebate based on the purchase price of a new battery-electric lawn and garden equipment item. To qualify, applicants must replace eligible gasoline-powered equipment with a like-for-like battery-electric replacement and permanently surrender the functional gasoline-powered equipment to an approved dismantler for destruction.

The current rebate structure provides:

- \$150 rebate for an equipment purchase price of \$250 or less;
- \$200 rebate for an equipment purchase price of \$251 to \$400; and
- \$250 rebate for an equipment purchase price of more than \$400.

In September 2024, the Board approved expansion of the program to include additional categories of battery-electric lawn and garden equipment, including leaf blowers, trimmers, chainsaws, and edgers. The expanded program provides residents with additional opportunities to replace gasoline-powered equipment with zero-emission alternatives and further reduce emissions from residential lawn and garden equipment use.

South Coast AQMD has provided rebates for almost 7,000 pieces of battery-electric lawn and garden equipment since 2017. The program has contributed to reductions of approximately 3.24 tons per year of Reactive Organic Gases and 0.07 tons per year of NO_x. Following the 2024 program expansion, over 2000 pieces of lawn and garden equipment were replaced representing a 73% increase compared to the period prior to the expansion.

Proposal

Staff recommends allocating an additional \$500,000 from the Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27) to continue providing rebates to residents throughout the South Coast Air Basin and support ongoing emission reductions from the residential lawn and garden sector.

Benefits to South Coast AQMD

The Residential Electric Lawn and Garden Equipment Rebate Program encourages the replacement of gasoline-powered lawn and garden equipment with zero-emission alternatives. Continued funding will support additional emission reductions, improve air quality, and advance South Coast AQMD's efforts to promote cleaner technologies throughout the South Coast Air Basin.

Resource Impacts

There are sufficient funds available in the Rule 2202 Air Quality Investment Fund (27).