

Community Development Department  
Code Compliance Division

**Proposed Ordinance**  
**Banning Use of Portable Blowers**

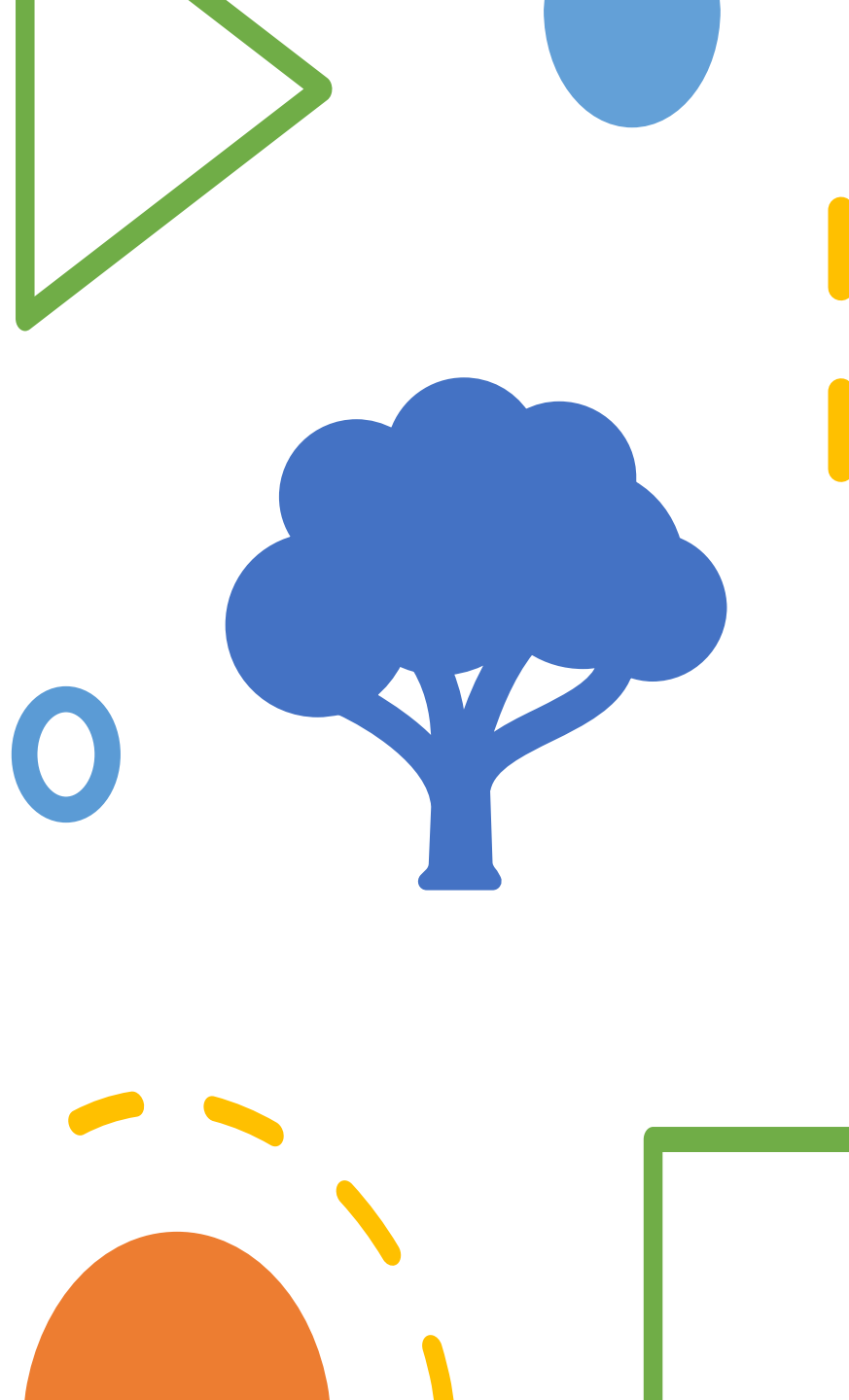


## Background

- The use of portable blowers when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is high has created health concerns.
- According to the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD), the AQI PM 2.5 exceeded 101 an average of 34.4 days dating back to 2014.
- Vice Mayor Jeff Harris requested that the City consider amending the city code to prohibit the use of all blowers when the AQI PM 2.5 is at or above 101.

# Committee Actions

- **February 12, 2020**: Staff presented proposed language to Law and Legislation Committee to amend the city code to prohibit use of portable blowers when the AQI PM 2.5 is above 100. Committee directed staff to return with an ordinance for consideration.
- **October 13, 2020**: Committee heard the proposed ordinance adding chapter 8.70 to the Sacramento City Code relating to Portable blowers and approved a motion forwarding the ordinance to the City Council for consideration.
- The approved motion included clarifying the ordinance to prohibit use when the AQI PM 2.5 is 101 or above.



# Proposed Ordinance

- Adds chapter 8.70 of the Sacramento City Code relating to portable blowers to define “Air Quality Index” as the “Current PM2.5 AQI” for downtown Sacramento, as reported by the SMAQMD on the website <http://www.sparetheair.com/aqi.cfm>.
- Prohibits operating a portable blower when the AQI PM 2.5 is 101 or above.
- Council Date: Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 2:00 pm.

# Enforcement

- Enforcement would be based on complaints
- Violations of the code are subject to administrative penalties in accordance with Sacramento City Code 1.28
- Staff conducted and will continue to conduct outreach to educate businesses and residents of the new restrictions prior to enforcing the code. You can find more information by visiting [www.cityofsacramento.org/blowerban](http://www.cityofsacramento.org/blowerban)

# Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why is the city prohibiting the use of portable blowers?** To address health concerns related to the use of portable blowers, the City is proposing prohibiting the use of portable blowers when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is at or above 101.
- **What is prohibited by the blower ordinance?** Use of all portable blowers when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is at or above 101. This includes commercial and residential use of electric and gas-powered blowers.
- **Where can I find the AQI for Sacramento?** AQI specific to the Sacramento region can be found at <http://www.sparetheair.com/aqi.cfm> or visit the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality District Spare the Air website and click “current conditions” for the most up to date information.

# Frequently Asked Questions (cont.)

- **How will the leaf blower ordinance be enforced?** Staff will respond to complaints of anyone using blowers when the AQI is at or above 101. Persons/businesses found operating a blower when prohibited are subject to administrative penalties.
- **Who will be impacted by this ordinance?** Anyone using a portable blower when the AQI is at or above 101. This includes residential and commercial use.
- **How do I report someone using a blower when the AQI is at or above 101?** Complaints can be filed by calling **311** or **(916)-808-5011** or emailing [311@cityofsacramento.org](mailto:311@cityofsacramento.org). Complaints should include the address or location where the activity is occurring as well as the name of contractor, landscaping or gardening company if appropriate.

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# Questions & Answers



# Contact Information

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