

# Item 5. Leaf Blower Subcommittee Report

- New Laws
- Current situation
- Proposal
  - Commercial
  - Landscapers/Gardeners
  - Residents
  - Emergency Crews

# New Law.....questionable effectivity



- AB 1346—authored by Marc Berman signed by Governor
  - Requires state to adopt regulations on gas powered tools by 7/1/22
  - Bans sale of new gas-powered leafblowers by 2024\*\*
  - Also prohibits the sale of gas-powered:
    - Lawn mowers
    - Power washers & chainsaws
    - Small off road engines
  - Directs CA Air Resources Board to create rebates
  - Gas-powered generators are to be zero emission by 2028 or later



\*\*Law to go into effect by 2024 or as soon as the State Board determines it is feasible, whichever is later.

# Subcommittee Opinion on State Law

- The new law, while bringing attention to the issue of these products, is not effective as it does not ban the use of these engines

A Leaf blower bought on 31 Dec 2023 could be used for years

- The Subcommittee recommends stronger action to eliminate the pollutants and noise of two-stroke gardening equipment thereby addressing both health and climate action goals

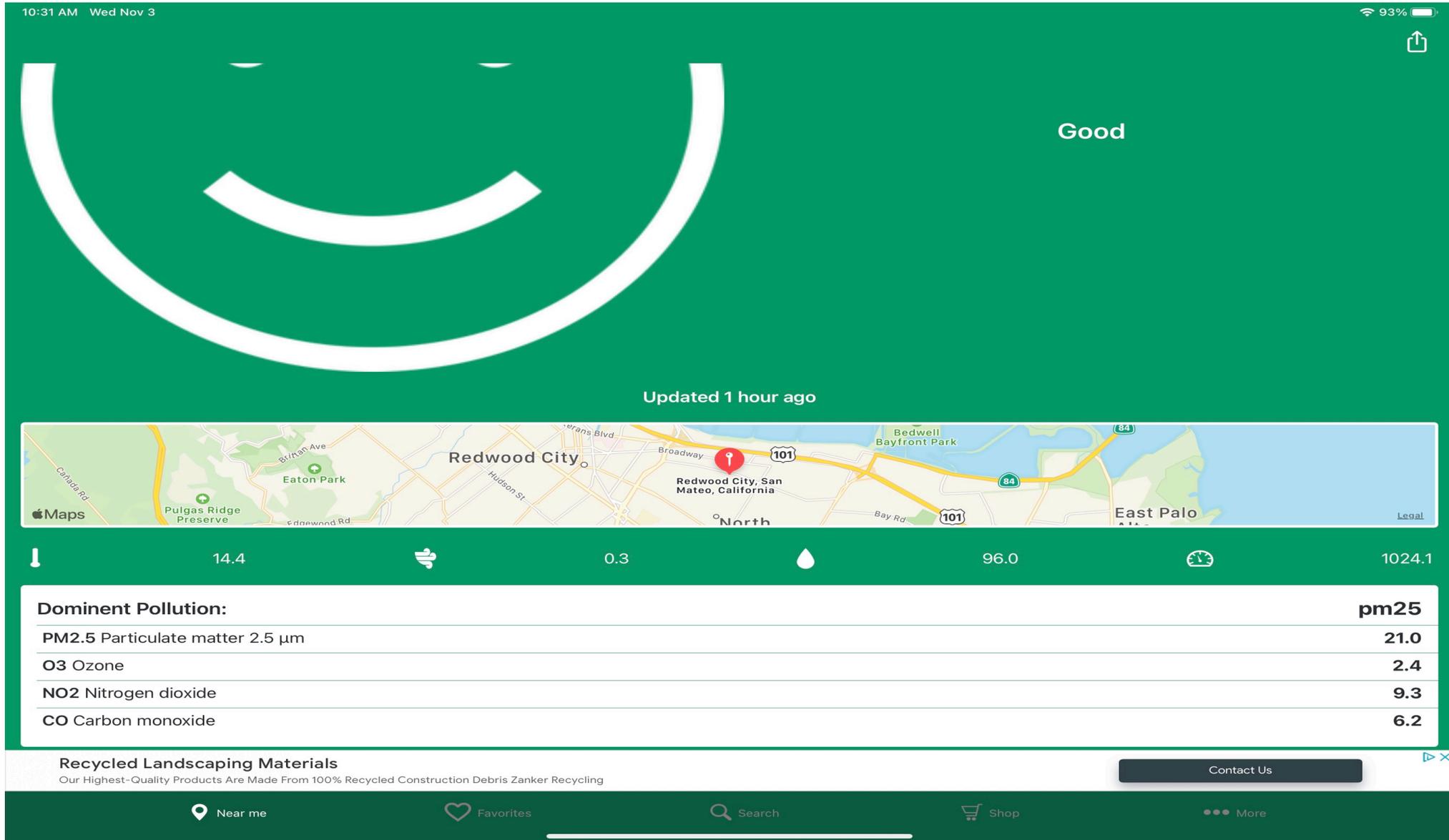


# Subcommittee Recommendations



- **Ban** the use of the loudest and most polluting gardening products on **residential properties** by residents and gardeners **effective Jan 2023**
- **Permit 4-stroke equipment** on commercial, educational and Town properties during the rain season (15 Oct-15 Mar) for use **on grassy fields**. Battery blowers to be used on hard services (tennis courts, streets, pathways)
- **Restrict** gas-powered equipment during spar the air days with AQI above 50 and PM 2.5 measured above 35 (set by WHO)
  - This can be viewed using various free apps.
  - Good one is **My AQI Air**
    - Provides Ozone, PM2.5 particulate matter, NO2 and CO readings for the area
    - **See next Slide**

# Screen shot from today's My AQI Air



# Hours of Use

- Until Ban in 2023, gas powered tools may be used only on weekdays from 8am-5PM. Restrict Weekend Usage
- Electric powered tools may be used weekday 8-5 plus
  - Saturday 10-5 and Sunday 10-3
  - Residents usage only on weekends
- Emergency Operations exempted as already stated



# Next Steps

- Obtain comments from Council
- Develop Staff report for Ordinance
- Staff to investigate State's \$30M small business transition costs
  - Once fully developed, point gardeners with licenses to the offering
  - Request SAMCEDA and County to partner and sponsor this offering
- Public Hearings
- EPC to develop multi-lingual educational material



# Enforcement

- Education via hangers on green carts, mailers and web/email announcements. Need GW coordination. Potential funding.
- Periodic visit from Code Enforcement with tracking
  - Visit one, further education
  - Visit two, fine (gardener)
  - Visit three, fine gardener and resident
  - Visit four, revoke business license
- Or ????? Council input, CM input, PD input

