

## Kendall Sawyer

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**From:** Flynn, Peggy  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2023 3:40 PM  
**To:** -- City Council  
**Cc:** Halter, Drew  
**Subject:** 3/20 Agenda item 7

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers—a councilmember asked “why are we purchasing a gas Toro Grandmaster rotary mower instead of electric?” (Note that this item was originally approved by Council on 12/5/22; this is a mid-year budget adjustment for the purchase) Please see staff response below:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide some additional information regarding the lease to own contract for the Toro Groundmaster 5910 mower, as it represents a critical resource to aid in essential park maintenance. In short, there are no electric options in manufacturing for a large scale (16 feet mowing area) vehicle nor are there indications or confident timelines from industry representatives for when such equipment would be available. For example, John Deere representatives indicated equivalent large scale equipment may first become available in 2026, however wouldn't become widely available for an additional 3-5 years.

Park staff have researched, demoed, and are pursuing incentive programs through agencies like the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to phase out the existing, smaller versions of gas mowers with all electric models with comparable mow decks. Currently, this includes those mowers with a 72' inch mow area. For comparison, the Toro's cutting capability allows for 17 acers of mowing per hour compared to 6.7 acres with the largest all electric units available. Or in practice, three staff versus one to complete the same area of mowing.

The Toro Groundmaster 5910 will replace a similar sized 20 year old piece of equipment that is current inoperable, having reached the end of it's serviceable life. Parks and Recreation staff remain committed to leading the effort to ensure equipment purchases accomplish both our ability to be responsive to calls for service as well as ensure long term capital investments are aligned with the City's overarching climate action goals. The Toro 5910 was recommended in part for it's a 3.3L engine that runs on renewable diesel with a fuel-efficient EPA Tier 4 final rating, meeting the BAAQMD's strict standards for emissions. More specifications are available under the climate action/sustainability subsection of the staff report brought to the Council on the December 5, 2022 regular meeting <https://cityofpetaluma.primegov.com/Portal/Meeting?meetingTemplateId=4381>,

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Petaluma is in a drought. There are many programs and incentives to help you conserve water! Learn more [HERE](#).