



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES**

CCAG ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT AUTHORITY

DATE: September 9, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 8, 2002

SET TIME ITEM: 9:15 AM

2/3 Vote Required

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: CCAG Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Authority
By: Chief James R. Granucci, Director *JRG*

SUBJECT: Extension of San Mateo County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program to April 2012, Pursuant to SB 106 (9250.7 CVC)

Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution authorizing extension of the San Mateo County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program (AVAP) to April 2012, and also providing authority for the Councils of the 17 participating cities within the County AVAP to confirm their desire for said extension, pursuant to the requirements of Section 9250.7 of the California Vehicle Code.

Background

In 1990, Section 22710 was added to the California Vehicle Code to allow for the creation of county-based vehicle service authorities to facilitate the abatement of abandoned vehicles on public and private lands. In 1991, the San Mateo County Vehicle Abatement Service Authority was established. Pursuant to state authorizing legislation, a one dollar surcharge was added to the annual vehicle registration fee for vehicles registered within the County. Fees are collected by the state Department of Motor Vehicles and remitted to the County AVAP through the administering agency, which in San Mateo County is the City of San Carlos. The funds are then allocated to participating AVAP agencies through a formula which incorporates population, geographic area, and the percentage of total countywide abated vehicles which each agency has individually abated during the prior year.

Currently participating AVAP agencies are the County (representing the unincorporated

area) and the Cities of Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, and Woodside. In 2000-01, a total of 27,244 vehicle abatements were reported to the state by San Mateo County participating agencies. Of these, about 76% were voluntarily abated by the vehicle owner after contact by the police agency or Sheriff's Office, with only 24% requiring towing. San Mateo County received \$717,670 in AVAP funds in 2000-01, and reported costs of \$700,902. The average cost per vehicle abatement in the County is \$25.73, which compares very favorably with the statewide average of \$79.83. Final countywide AVAP data for 2001-02 is now being compiled, and is expected to show similar results.

Discussion

The AVAP enabling legislation provided for an initial term of ten years, which in San Mateo County's case will expire in May, 2003. However, SB106, passed last year, amended Section 9250.7 of the Vehicle Code to allow AVAP service authorities to renew and extend the term of the AVAP program and vehicle registration fee every ten years. The extension must be authorized by 2/3 approval vote of your Board of Supervisors, then subsequently confirmed by a majority of the cities comprising a majority of the unincorporated area population in the County.

Abandoned vehicles create many problems for crime prevention, traffic management, parking and code enforcement, public and environmental health, and for the general quality of life within our beautiful County. The AVAP is a valuable tool for participating jurisdictions to safely and cost effectively abate abandoned vehicles, using a continuum of methods which emphasizes a voluntary, cooperative approach whenever possible over costly towing and impounding. San Mateo County's AVAP has a decade of demonstrated success. We urge your Board's approval of this important Resolution.

Attached to this report are some informational sheets summarizing state and San Mateo County AVAP performance, as well as information from the Highway Patrol showing sunset dates and urging local support for the extension be obtained prior to the sunset date.

Vision Alignment

This action aligns with the County's Shared Vision 2010 goals 7, 22, and 23, to maintain and enhance public safety; emphasize collaborative, strategic inter-governmental approaches to countywide issues; and providing leadership for broad regional solutions to issues in land use and transportation.

Fiscal Impact

The extension of San Mateo County's AVAP to April, 2012 will provide approximately \$720,000 in annual funding for AVAP activities to the eighteen participating agencies, allowing this valuable program to be maintained. This action is especially important in view of the budget constraints presently faced by the County and most Cities.