




COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Board of Supervisors

DATE: December 4, 2002

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 17, 2002

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
FROM: Supervisor Jerry Hill 
SUBJECT: Clean Vehicle Procurement Policies

Recommendation

Approve the resolution providing that County departments, other than public safety and emergency vehicles, shall include in their vehicle procurement practices, consideration of the acquisition of the lowest emission vehicles available that are practical for the intended application and where said vehicles are cost competitive, or where funding is available to assure that such vehicles are reasonably cost competitive.

Background

The County has implemented a program of acquiring clean fuel vehicles over the past several years and this has been accomplished either by using alternate language in our bid documents for vehicles, which specify "alternate fueled vehicles," or by developing the specifications that call for low emission vehicles when it has been demonstrated that comparable vehicles are in the market. Additionally, San Mateo County has received a grant from Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) which will retrofit all of the County's diesel equipment with new filters to reduce pollution, with the exception of buses, garbage trucks and fixed diesel equipment such as emergency generator sets, which are not included in this BAAQMD program.

Discussion

The County is currently looking to replace 54 vehicles this year and 21 have or will be bid using low-emission criteria. Of the remaining, staff is evaluating the use of 22 to determine if low emission vehicles can be used in the applications in the manner that these vehicles are utilized and 11 are Sheriff's vehicles, which are exempt. The County's fleet is used in both suburban as well as rural areas of San Mateo County. And, although the fleet does include a number of electric vehicles, they cannot be used Countywide as they only have a range of 50 miles between charges, and their range is reduced if they are used in hilly areas.

Vision Alignment

Applicable Shared Vision 2010 goals are #14, "Important natural resources are preserved and enhanced through environmental stewardship," and #20, "Government decisions are based on careful consideration of future impact, rather than temporary relief or immediate gain."