Summary Title: AVASA Agreement

Title: Approval of Extension of the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVASA) for Third 10-Year Term and the City of Palo Alto's Continued Participation

From: City Manager

Lead Department: Police

Recommendation

Staff recommends that Council:

1. Adopt the attached resolution approving the extension of the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority (AVASA) for a third 10-year term beginning May 1, 2012; and
2. Approve the City's continued participation in AVASA.

Background

Sections 9250.7 and 22107 of the California Vehicle Code provide for the establishment of a service authority for abandoned vehicle abatement if the County Board of Supervisors and a majority of the cities within a county adopt resolutions supporting such action. This program imposes an annual vehicle registration fee of one dollar on the vehicles registered to owners with an address in each county. Revenue collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles is used to reimburse participating agencies based on the following formula: 50 percent based on the jurisdiction's population percentage and the other 50 percent based on a jurisdiction's percentage of vehicles abated county-wide.

In 1991, Santa Clara County established the AVASA program and the City Council adopted a resolution authorizing the City of Palo Alto's participation. This service authority was established to provide County law and code enforcement agencies with resources to facilitate the proper removal and disposal of abandoned vehicles. Santa Clara County's current AVASA agreement sunsets on April 30, 2012.
**Discussion**

Senate Bill 106 amended Section 9250.7 of the California Vehicle Code which established the AVASA program. The amendment authorizes the extension of the service fee for each service authority for increments of up to 10 years if the County Board of Supervisors, by a two-thirds vote, and a majority of the cities having a majority of the incorporated population within the county, adopt resolutions providing for the extension of the fee. Palo Alto has approximately 3.6% of the County's population. Approving the extension of the program is required for the program to continue. Adoption of this resolution would reauthorize the City’s participation in the AVASA program until April 30, 2022.

**Resource Impact**

Currently, approximately 50 percent of a community service officer's time in the Police Department’s Traffic Division is spent on abandoned vehicle abatement in Palo Alto. Over 1,000 abandoned vehicles were processed last year, and over 6,000 abandoned vehicles were abated in the last ten years. The City has received approximately $458,250 in reimbursement funds from the AVASA program in the last ten years. Including equipment, salary and benefits, and administrative overhead, the City spends approximately $47,000 a year to provide this service. By participating in AVASA, about 97 percent of these costs have been reimbursed to the City over the last ten years.

In FY 2010-2011, the City of Palo Alto projected AVASA revenues are estimated to be approximately $42,000.

**Policy Implications**

This recommendation is consistent with existing City policy.

**Attachments:**

- AVASA Resolution (PDF)

**Prepared By:**  
Karen McAdams, Parking Manager

**Department Head:**  
Dennis Burns, Police Chief
City Manager Approval: James Keene, City Manager
Resolution No.____
Resolution of the Council of the City of Palo Alto Approving the Extension of Authority for The California Department of Motor Vehicles to Collect the Vehicle Registration Fee for Distribution to the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code Section 22710 authorizes the establishment of a service authority for the abatement of abandoned vehicles in a county and the imposition of a one dollar ($1.00) vehicle registration fee, if the board of supervisors, by a two-thirds vote, and a majority of the cities having a majority of the incorporated population within the county have adopted resolutions providing for the establishment of the authority and the imposition of the fee; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 1991, the Council approved Resolution No. 7039 authorizing the establishment of a service authority within Santa Clara County, thereby making funds available to the City for abatement activities through the imposition of a one dollar ($1.00) per vehicle annual registration fee on all vehicles registered in Santa Clara County;

WHEREAS, the number of vehicles abandoned on public and private property is constantly increasing, and it is increasingly difficult for the City to sufficiently fund programs to abate abandoned vehicle nuisances; and

WHEREAS, the City of Palo Alto has established a plan for the abatement of abandoned vehicles pursuant to Chapter 9.64 of the Palo Alto Municipal Code; and

WHEREAS, California Vehicle Code section 9250.7(g) authorizes the vehicle abatement registration fee to be imposed by a service authority only for a period of 10 years from the date that the collection of the fee commenced, provided, however that the fee may be extended in increments of up to 10 years by two-thirds vote of the County Board of Supervisors and a majority of the cities having a majority of the incorporated population within the County adopting resolutions providing for the extension of the fee;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Palo Alto does RESOLVE as follows:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of Palo Alto hereby declares that it approves the extension for an additional period of ten years the collection by the California Department of Motor Vehicles for distribution to the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicles Abatement Service Authority that vehicle abatement fee authorized by California Vehicle Code Section 22710.
SECTION 2. The City Council of the City of Palo Alto hereby declares that it approves the extension for an additional period of ten years the collection by the California Department of Motor Vehicles for distribution to the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicles Abatement Service Authority that vehicle abatement fee authorized by California Vehicle Code Section 22710.

INTRODUCED AND PASSED:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTENTIONS:

ATTEST:

________________________________________
City Clerk

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Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney

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City Manager

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Police Chief

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Director of Administrative Services