TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: CITY MANAGER DEPARTMENT: POLICE

DATE: JANUARY 14, 2002 CMR:106:02

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF EXTENSION OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY ABANDONED VEHICLE ABATEMENT SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR SECOND 10-YEAR TERM AND THE CITY OF PALO ALTO’S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the City:

1) adopt the attached resolution approving the extension of the Santa Clara County Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority (AVASA) for a second 10-year term beginning May 1, 2002, and

2) approve the City’s continued participation in the AVASA.

BACKGROUND

Sections 9250.7 and 22710 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 within 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, 2002.
**DISCUSSION**

Senate Bill 106, recently signed into law, 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 3.5% 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, 2012.

**RESOURCE IMPACT**

Currently, 50 percent of a community service officer’s time and about 25 percent of a staff secretary’s time in the Police Department’s Traffic Division is spent on abandoned vehicle abatement in Palo Alto. Over 1,285 abandoned vehicles were processed last year. Including equipment, salary and benefits and administrative overhead, the City spends approximately $54,000 a year to provide this service. By participating in AVASA, about 96 percent of these costs will be reimbursed to the City.

In FY 2000-2001, the City of Palo Alto received reimbursements in the amount of $52,000 from the AVASA program for its expenses related to the removal of 726 abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, or inoperative vehicles from our public streets. Projected AVASA revenues for FY 2001-2002 are estimated to be approximately $50,000.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This recommendation is consistent with existing city policy.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The recommendation is not subject to consideration of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
ATTACHMENTS

Attachment: Resolution

PREPARED BY:

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DAVID DUDLEY
Supervisor Parking Enforcement

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LYNNE JOHNSON
Assistant Police Chief

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

__________________________
PATRICK DWYER
Chief of Police

CITY MANAGER APPROVAL:

__________________________
EMILY HARRISON
Assistant City Manager