



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** Tuesday, July 8, 2025  
**TO:** CITY COUNCIL  
**WRITTEN BY:** POLICE CAPTAIN RADICH  
**RECOMMENDED BY:** POLICE CHIEF ZAMORA  
**APPROVED BY:** TAMARA VIDES, CITY MANAGER  
**SUBJECT:** RESOLUTION AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CERTAIN TOW-RELATED CHARGES

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### RECOMMENDATION:

The City Council adopt a resolution amending the schedule of fees for Class A, Class B and Class C hourly towing rates, to align with the California Highway Patrol – Santa Cruz Area’s FY2025-2026 hourly tow rates.

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### BACKGROUND:

The Police Department currently has three tow companies on a rotation list which are used for the removal of vehicles in the following circumstances:

- The vehicle was involved in a traffic collision, and the owner requested a tow.
- Storage of vehicles at arrest scenes.
- Storage of vehicles for evidence.
- Vehicles left unattended which block roadways or pose safety hazards.
- Vehicles that are determined to be abandoned.

On October 8, 2024, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 212-24 (CM) amending the schedule of fees for certain tow-related charges, which included updating the Class A (Light-Duty), Class B (Medium-Duty) and Class C (Heavy-Duty) hourly towing rates to reflect the California Highway Patrol (CHP) – Santa Cruz Area’s FY2024-2025 hourly tow rates. All other Law Enforcement Agencies in Santa Cruz County use the CHP’s annually updated hourly towing rates.

Pursuant to WMC 4-11.14 (Schedule of fees and rates), “The City Council shall by resolution establish the maximum chargeable fees and fees for each rotation request. For towing services, the permittee may charge no more than the maximum rate set by the City Council.”

## DISCUSSION:

On June 18, 2025, the California Highway Patrol – Santa Cruz Area approved their FY2025-2026 hourly tow rates. The FY2024-2025 hourly tow rates for the CHP and Watsonville Police Department (WPD) are included below, along with the FY2025-2026 CHP rates, and the recommended WPD FY2025-2026 rates:

<b>Towing Class</b>	<b>FY24-25 CHP Hourly Rate</b>	<b>FY24-25 WPD Hourly Rate</b>	<b>FY25-26 CHP Hourly Rate</b>	<b>Recommended FY25-26 WPD Hourly Rate</b>
Class A	\$315-\$330	\$315	\$355-\$375	\$355
Class B	\$400-\$410	\$400	\$400-\$420	\$400
Class C	\$485-\$500	\$485	\$510	\$510

Implementation of these recommended hourly tow rates will continue the uniformity the City Council created on October 8, 2024 in Resolution No. 212-24 (CM), amongst the Tow Companies and Law Enforcement Agencies within Santa Cruz County. These updated FY25-26 CHP hourly tow rates do not exceed the reasonable cost for providing these types of service within the City of Watsonville.

## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) DETERMINATION:

The amendment to the Schedule of Fees for tow related charges is not a “project” pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5) as this is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. Even if the amendment were found to be a “project,” it would qualify under the “common sense” CEQA exemption pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3) because it can be seen with virtual certainty that this Resolution, which concerns fees charged for towing services, will not result in a significant impact on the environment.

## STRATEGIC PLAN:

### Public Safety

## FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to the City/PD for Tow Fees collected by the Tow Companies.

## ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

The City Council may elect not to move forward with adopting a resolution to amend the Schedule of Fees for these tow-related charges at this time.

## ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (IF ANY):

- 1) 25-26 CHP tow fees