

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (CM)

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE AMENDING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES FOR CERTAIN TOW-RELATED CHARGES TO ALIGN WITH THE CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL – SANTA CRUZ AREA’S HOURLY TOW RATES FY-2025-2026

WHEREAS, the City contracts with tow service providers to remove and impound vehicles that are illegally parked on highways, public property, and private property; and

WHEREAS, the Watsonville Municipal Code Section 4-11.14 establishes a schedule of fees and rates for tow-related services, as authorized by Vehicle Code section 22850.5, that each tow company entering into an agreement with the City charges and passes through to owners of towed vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City recently reviewed charges for tow-related services and has determined that certain fees must be updated to reflect the reasonable cost of service; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to update its tow-related fees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WATSONVILLE, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals.

The recitals set forth above are true and correct and incorporated herein by this reference.

Section 2. Findings.

1. There is a reasonable relationship between the revised charges in the modified fee schedule and the estimated reasonable cost of providing the type of service for which a fee is imposed.

2. The fees in the modified fee schedule do not exceed the estimated reasonable costs of providing the service for which a fee is charged.

Section 3. Maximum Fees Established.

The City Council hereby adopts the following max tow rates:

Service	Charge
Class A – Light Duty Tow – 1 Hour	\$355
Class B – Medium Duty Tow – 1 Hour	\$400
Class C – Heavy Duty Tow – 1 Hour	\$510

Section 4. CEQA.

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 removal of fees charged for towing services, will not result in a significant impact on the environment, as it does not propose or permit any new development, nor does it increase (or change in any way) the land use, density, or development regulations applicable to any property.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the City Council.