



Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: Tuesday, June 22, 2021

TO: City Council

FROM: POLICE CHIEF HONDA
CAPTAIN MCKINLEY

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF THE SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY VEHICLE ABATEMENT AUTHORITY

STATEMENT OF ISSUES:

The Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority authorizing an additional one-dollar (\$1.00) surcharge on vehicle registration fees sunsets, by statute, on April 30, 2022. Subdivision (g) of California Vehicle Code Section 9250.7 allows for each California county to extend their sunset date for the program in 10-year increments.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Resolution extending the Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority authorizing a one-dollar (\$1.00) surcharge on vehicle registrations.

DISCUSSION:

Abandoned vehicles are a public nuisance and danger to public health and safety. To help address this issue, on November 12, 1991, the City Council adopted Resolution 393-91 (CM) establishing a Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority. On December 11, 2001, the City Council adopted Resolution 294-01 (CM) extending the Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority for 10 years. On October 11, 2011, the City Council adopted Resolution 185-11 (CM) extending the Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority for an additional 10 years. These resolutions authorized the imposition of a one-dollar (\$1.00) surcharge on vehicle registration fees. This fee is collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles and is distributed to each jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County in proportion to population, on a quarterly basis. This authority was established by Assembly Bill 4114 (Chapter 1684 of the 1990 Statutes). The Watsonville Police Department established an Abandoned Vehicle Abatement plan based on this bill and was approved by the City Council. In order to continue receiving revenue from the Vehicle Abatement Program, each jurisdiction in Santa Cruz County must approve an extension of the county wide vehicle registration fee every ten years.

STRATEGIC PLAN:

The extension of the Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority would fall within the City Council's Strategic Plan under Public Safety (06). The program would provide continued

funding for the abatement, removal and disposal of abandoned, wrecked or inoperable vehicles which are public nuisances

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

For fiscal years 2016-2017 through 2020-2021 the City received an average of \$61,340 in revenue from the Santa Cruz County Vehicle Abatement Authority. This revenue helps fund a portion of the Police Service Specialist position which is responsible for vehicle abatement. It is expected that this revenue will remain the same or increase based on population, and number of vehicles abated.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION:

To not participate in the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program. This would result in a decline in funding for the Police Service Specialist who is responsible for vehicle abatement and require the abatement of vehicles without any compensation.

ATTACHMENTS AND/OR REFERENCES (If any):

None.