



# County of Santa Cruz

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## GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

(831) 454-2718 FAX: (831) 454-2710 TDD: (831) 454-2123

BOB WATSON, DIRECTOR

December 6, 2001

AGENDA: December 11, 2001

Board of Supervisors  
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### "NON-GREEN" VEHICLE PURCHASES

Dear Members of the Board:

During the FY 2001-02 budget hearings, your Board approved the purchase of new and replacement vehicles and further directed the General Services Department to report back prior to the purchase of any "non-green" vehicles with justification as to why those purchases are being recommended. The General Services Department is fully committed to pursuing and expanding the use of "green" vehicles wherever possible in the County's fleet. For your Board's information, General Services is proceeding at this time with the purchase of nine "green" vehicles. These vehicles are in addition to nine "green" vehicles that were purchased earlier this year. These new vehicles include a Detention pickup truck, General Services pickup truck, Health Services Agency mini-pickup truck, Human Resources Agency sedan, Parks van, Parks pickup truck, Probation van, and two 2 Probation sedans.

"Green" vehicles utilize alternative fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), renewable fuels such as ethanol or methanol, flex-fuel vehicles which utilize alternative and/or conventional fuels, electricity or a hybrid operating system consisting of a combination of conventional and electric power. All of these types of vehicles are considered environmentally friendly because they produce less air pollutants than conventional gasoline or diesel vehicles.

However, there are currently factors which limit the use of alternative fueled vehicles for certain types of County operations. These factors include limited fuel availability, reduced range between fuelings and reduced cargo/payload capacity. There are currently only two CNG fueling stations in the County. In addition to the fueling station located at GSD's Fleet Services Center, CNG is also available at the PG&E yard located on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Santa Cruz.

The primary County operations affected by these limitations are public safety/emergency vehicle operations. In addition, certain construction and maintenance functions are similarly affected. These limitations are somewhat mitigated when dealing with flex-fuel vehicle applications such as CNG/gasoline or ethanol/gasoline types. However, such vehicles are currently limited to either full-size pickups or mid-sized 4-door sedans.


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Because of these limitations, Fleet Services is recommending the purchase of thirteen "non-green" vehicles powered by either gasoline or diesel fuel. These purchases have been approved by your Board during the budget process as either new or replacement vehicles. These vehicles include a Detention flat bed truck, two Detention prisoner transport vans, a Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) van, a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program vehicle which will be outfitted to also be able to provide patrol and emergency functions, five Sheriffs' Office undercover vehicles, two County Fire four-wheeled-drive pickups, and one Parks one ton dump truck. Because these vehicles either travel extensively in and out of County, require emergency operations capabilities, and/or have cargo/payload requirements, the use of alternative fueled vehicles is impractical at this time.

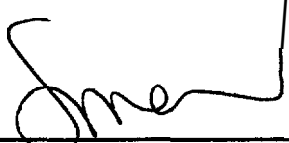
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report on vehicle purchases; and
2. Authorize the General Services Department to proceed with the purchase of "non-green" vehicles as described.

Very truly yours,

  
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BOB WATSON  
Director

RECOMMENDED:

  
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SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Auditor-Controller  
County Fire  
HRA  
HSA  
Probation Department  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Sheriff-Coroner