

County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 6/18/02

June 11, 2002

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: RESOLUTION REGARDING MEXICAN IDENTITY CARDS

Dear Members of the Board:

Several Mexican citizens residing in our County have approached my office expressing concern about their inability to obtain appropriate identity cards. These individuals fear being unable to establish their identity to our local peace officers especially during an emergency situation. As the Board knows, identity cards are crucial for law enforcement authorities to corroborate individuals' identity in order to ensure the safety of the general public.

The Mexican Consulate Office provides Mexican nationals with reliable identity cards for re-entering their country. These cards, which are issued only to individuals who can establish their nationality, have certain security features intended to prevent fraud and are accepted by Mexican authorities in lieu of a passport. The attached resolution would require County departments to accept the Mexican identity card known as Matricula Consular when requiring members of the public to provide an identification document.

As already explained, the purpose of this resolution is to aid County departments in determining the identity of Mexican nationals who do not possess currently accepted forms of identification. While the provisions in this resolution would assist many departments including the Health Services Agency and the Human Resources Agency in identifying individuals, these provisions will most clearly benefit our law enforcement officers. Attached is a letter from Santa Cruz County Sheriff Mark Tracy expressing his support on behalf of this resolution. The ability of law enforcement officers to verify an individual's identity with the Matricula Consular would clearly reduce the time needed to process them, as required by some statutes.

June 11, 2002

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Furthermore, if individuals are able to identify themselves with the Matricula Consular, they may be more likely to report crimes and cooperate with authorities.


I feel strongly that countless County residents would benefit from the ability to present the Matricula Consular as an identity card to our County's departments and public agencies. This resolution will further enable individuals to obtain "unrestricted services" such as library cards, senior citizen discounts, public bus passes, and others. Of most significance, the provisions in this resolution will bring peace of mind to many individuals and families living in our community as they will now possess an identity card accepted in the County of Santa Cruz.

Nevertheless, our County will retain certain discretion for accepting these cards. For example, as stated in the resolution, these provisions would not apply in situations where other laws require the County to obtain different identification documents or where conditions imposed by funding sources require departments to request other forms of identity cards. Similarly, another provision will allow the County Administrative Officer or the County Sheriff-Coroner to issue a waiver from the requirements of this resolution based on security or law enforcement considerations.

Numerous other counties and cities across the State have approved similar measures requiring departments to accept foreign-issued cards. The City and County of San Francisco and the City of Oakland are among them. The proposed resolution would greatly improve the ability of our County departments to identify individuals, and would provide individuals residing in our County better access to County services.

Accordingly, I recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt the attached resolution to accept the Matricula Consular issued by the Mexican Consulate as a valid form of identification.

Sincerely yours,


TONY CAMPese, Supervisor
Fourth District

TC:lg
Attachments

cc: County Administrative Officer
Each Department Head

- 7s4

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO. _____

On the motion of Supervisor
duly seconded by Supervisor
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICAN
IDENTIFICATION CARDS FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES
BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

WHEREAS, there are a number of Mexican citizens residing in Santa Cruz County who do not possess a form of identification issued by United States federal or state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the *Consulado General de Mexico* ("Mexican Consulate") provides Mexican nationals with identification cards, entitled *Matrículas Consulares*; and

WHEREAS, the Mexican Consulate requires sufficient confirmation of a person's identity before issuing the person an identity card, the *Matriculas Consulares* contain various security features designed to reduce falsification, and Mexico accepts the *Matrículas Consulares* as identification for re-entry into Mexico; and

WHEREAS, if Mexican citizens who possess a *Matricula Consular* are able to establish their identities to local peace officers, this would facilitate their interactions with County law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, if Mexican citizens who possess a *Mafricula Consular* are able to establish their identities to other County personnel, they will have better access to public services; and

WHEREAS, if law enforcement officers are able to corroborate a person's identity using the *Mafricula Consular*, this would reduce the time needed to process undocumented immigrants, saving time and lowering costs; and

WHEREAS, many immigrants will be more likely to report crimes to law enforcement officers if they possess an accepted form of identification.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz resolves and orders that when requiring members of the public to provide identification, each County department shall accept the *Mafricula Consular*, issued by the Mexican Consulate, as a valid form of identification.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICAN IDENTIFICATION
CARDS FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Page 2

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the following exceptions apply:

- A. The County Administrative Officer or the County Sheriff may issue a waiver from the requirements of this Resolution based on security or law enforcement considerations.
- B. The requirements of this Resolution do not apply under circumstances where (1) a federal or state statute, administrative regulation or directive, court decision or other applicable law requires the County to obtain different identification, (2) a federal or state statute, administrative regulation or directive, or other applicable law preempts local regulation of identification requirements, or (3) the County would be unable to comply with a condition imposed by a funding source, causing the County to lose funds from that source.
- C. No County department is required to accept the *Mafricula Consular* if it has reasonable grounds for determining that it is counterfeit, altered, improperly issued to the card-holder, or is an otherwise unreliable form of identification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that this Resolution addresses the acceptance of the *Mafricula Consular* for the sole purpose of establishing a person's identity. It does not establish any legal status or entitlement to any benefits. Nothing in this Resolution is intended to prohibit County departments from asking for additional information from individuals in order to verify a current address or other facts that would enable the department to fulfill responsibilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that in undertaking the adoption and implementation of this resolution, the County is assuming an undertaking only to promote the general welfare. It is not assuming, nor is it imposing on its officers, agents and employees, an obligation for breach of which it is liable to any person who claims such breach proximately caused injury.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the head of each department affected by this Resolution shall inform the appropriate members of their department of the requirements of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICAN IDENTIFICATION
CARDS FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES BY THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Page 3

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the County Administrative Officer shall include the substance of this resolution in the next update of the County Policy and Procedures Manual.

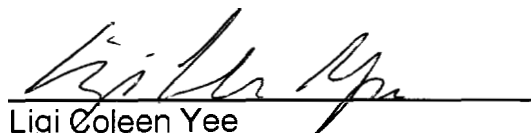
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this _____ day of _____, 2002, by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES: SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form:



Ligi Coleen Yee
Assistant County Counsel

DISTRIBUTION: County Administrative Officer
Sheriff
County Counsel
Each Department head

540 N. First Street
San José, CA 95112
Tel: (408) 294-3414

CONSULADO GENERAL DE MÉXICO

Tony Campos
Supervisor, 4th District
County of Santa Cruz

March 22, 2002

Dear Mr. Campos,

Regarding your letter dated May 16th through which you request: information **about** the Matricula Consular, I would like to inform you of **the** general requirements for obtaining this Mexican document.

1. The Mexican Consulates **since** 1870 have issued **the** Matricula for Mexican nationals who live abroad. **For more** than a decade **the** Mexican Consulates in the United States, **48** at **this** moment, have issued Matriculas as a picture id, more or less the size of a U. S. drivers license. **It** is a laminated document with **an** embossed picture that **contains** the name, address, place and date of **birth** of the individual, their signature and the issuing **officers** signature.

This Matricula has three different **safety** features:

- a) **The film** has a printed banner which shows on the **ID** itself saying **Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores**.
- b) Each Consulate has different letters printed on the picture in order to differentiate from the issuing representation. For example, **San Jose - SJ, Sacramento - SAC, etc...**
- c) **The** picture is **not** attached but rather is an integrated part of the laminated document.

2. Requirements.

- a) Proof of Identity. This may be done through another form of valid id or other documentation such as the Mexican voters registration card, Mexican military **ID**, Mexican passport, school ID, school diploma or any other document issued by a government authority with its original seal.
- b) Proof of address. The Mexican Consulate of San Jose has jurisdiction of the Santa Cruz, San Benito, San Benito and Monterey counties, and therefore, may only serve the Mexicans who reside within these counties.

3. New Matricula. The Mexican government, in an effort to apply more safety features to the Matrículas, has for the last 10 years, slowly been changing their appearance.

Today, the Mexican Consulates in Chicago, New York, San Francisco, and Los Angeles, among others, are issuing this new Matricula.

Enclosed you will find a color pamphlet with details on the new features.

Currently, the Mexican Consulate in San Jose has the equipment necessary to issue the new Matricula. Due to small details that arise and need a change, we expect to start issuing the new Matrículas in mid July. We believe that waiting for July will allow us to benefit from the experiences of the other consulates.

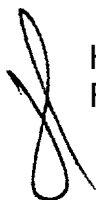
4. It is important to understand that the Mexican Government does not issue this document in Mexico. This ID is primarily used for proper identification of Mexican nationality and used to enter Mexican territory.

Some of ~~its~~ benefits are that it ~~is~~ issued for a period of 5 years, it is less expensive than the passport (\$91 versus \$29), easier to carry, and more durable than paper.

We have included two different Matriculas which have been issued by this Consulate. You may observe that the newer one does not have the label Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores and this is because we are expecting that the new Matricula will not have this in its' film.

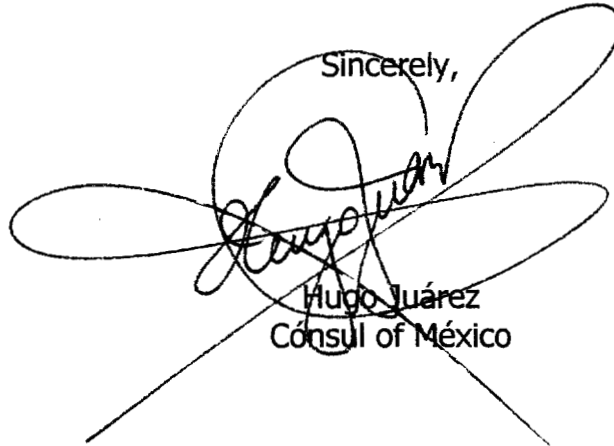
We hope that this information is valuable for the purpose of your county and that it serves to recognize the Matricula as a valid form of **ID** as other counties and cities have done.

Hoping that it may be of use to you, enclosed you will find copy of the San Francisco resolution recognizing the Matrículas a valid form of ID in that county.



Should you require additional information, this Consulate **is** willing to make a presentation for the Board of Supervisors and other counties.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hugo Juárez", is written over the typed name and title.

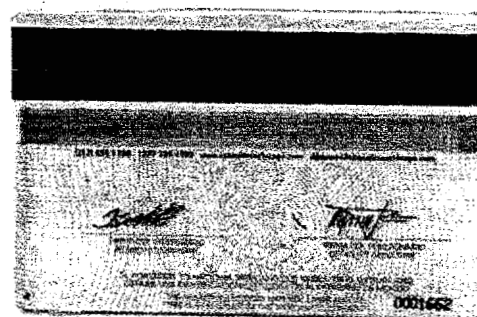
Hugo Juárez
Consul of México

HJC/avo

The Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs informs that, as part of the **Integral Program for the Improvement of the Consular Services**, on March 6, 2002 started issuing a new higher security Consular ID, called "*Matricula Consular de Alta Seguridad*" or MCAS.



(FRONT)



(BACK)

The main MCAS security backs are either visible or invisible security features:

Visible security features:

- 1) Green security paper, with a special security pattern.
- 2) "Advantage seal", with a Mexican Official seal that appears over the bearer's picture that changes color from green to brown when seen with natural light.



- 3) Infra red band on the back of the MCAS.
- 4) Using a fluorescent-light lamp, you are able to read SRE all over the front of the MCAS.

Invisible security features:

in order to be able to reveal the invisible MCAS security marks, a special decoder is needed. Using this decoder you can see the following:

On the front side:

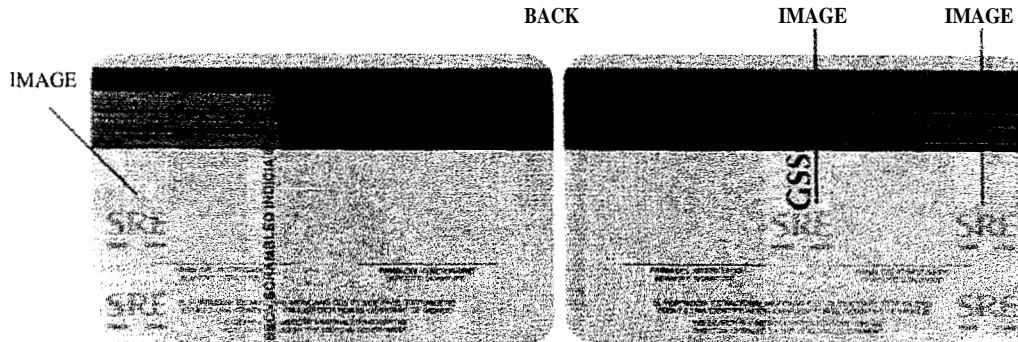
- 1) The word *MEXICO* written at the left side of the MCAS, next to the bearer's picture.
- 2) The legend "*MATRICULA CONSULAR CONSULAR ID CARD*", written at the bottom of the MCAS.

3) The capital letters "SRE", written three times on the right side of the MCAS.

0516

On the back side:

- 1) Written on the left side of the green line, while using the decoder, you will read the bearer's name and the ID number. On the right side, you will read the ID's expiration date and the name of the issuing office, for example "CONSULMEX CHICAGO".
- 2) Turning the decoder 90° degrees, you will read SRE written five times over the MCAS, with the following pattern:



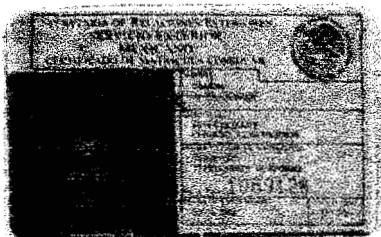
- 3) Using the decoder over the picture, you will read the bearer's name.



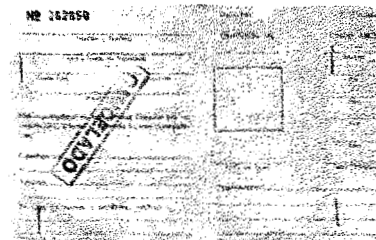
- 4) Using the decoder over the picture and turning it 90° degrees, you will read the capital letters "SRE" and the bearer's D.O.B.



Please note that the two Consular IDs (*Matriculas Consulares*) previously issued by the Mexican Consulates in the United States, both, the one laminated and the booklet-like one, are going to be valid until their expiration date.



(LAMINATED)



(BOOKLET-LIKE)



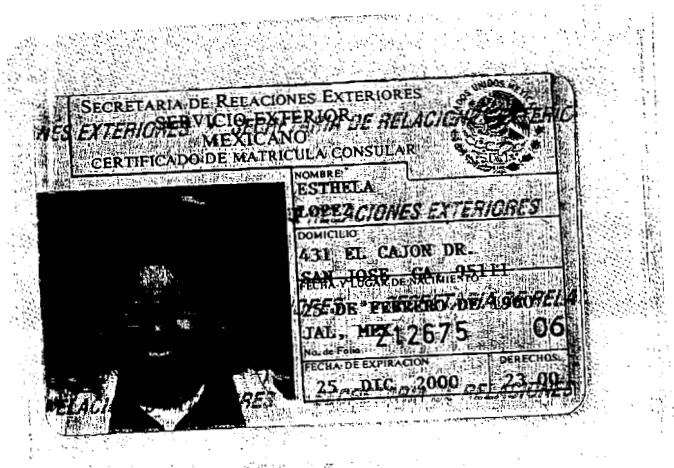
El titular de este documento quedo registrado en esta oficina consular, por ser mexicano y tener su domicilio en esta circunscripcion. This is an ID issued by the MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

Maria Teresa Cerón Vélez
Cónsul de México

Saul Rocha

Firma del Interesado

Firma del Funcionario



El titular de este documento quedo registrado en esta oficina consular, por ser mexicano y tener su domicilio en esta circunscripcibn. This is an ID issued by the MEXICAN GOVERNMENT.

N.C.

Lic. Esther Larios
Cónsul de México

Firma del Interesado

Firma del Funcionario

Published in The Oakland Tribune, February 6, 2002

Oakland to accept Mexican, foreign IDs

By FROM STAFF REPORTS

OAKLAND -- The City Council voted Tuesday to make Oakland the second city in the nation to accept cards issued by the Mexican consulate -- and from other foreign governments -- as legal identification.

In addition to requiring city departments to accept the cards, the council voted unanimously to urge the sheriffs department and other public service agencies to recognize the Mexican "Matricula Consular" as valid.

"I urge you to consider making the lives of our nationals living and working in the city of Oakland a little easier," said Georgina Lagos, Mexican consul general in San Francisco. "It will allow people to do simple things that most of us take for granted."

So far, the Mexican and French governments are the only ones to issue such cards, although any consulate could do so. San Francisco recently became the first city to pass a law to accept the cards -- although the Orange County Sheriffs Association had approved a policy of recognizing them last October.

The cards, which carry a photo and are issued to Mexican citizens who can show a birth certificate and prove they have been living in the United States for at least six months, are a valuable tool for undocumented immigrants who have no other identification.

They can also be a big help to law enforcement, argues Council President Ignacio De La Fuente (San Antonio-Fruitvale), who introduced the ordinance.

Police waste countless hours trying to identify and process foreign nationals who are detained. Although the cards do not establish legal status in the United States or allow their bearers to re-enter the country, they can help police process detainees.

Especially since Sept. 11 "it makes it very difficult to have a good security system if we have people who are nameless and we don't know their address," said Councilmember Danny Wan (Grandlake-Chinatown).

Immigrants may be less reluctant to report crimes if they have a form of identification, backers of the cards say.

Although the Mexican consulate has offered the cards for the past 10 years, demand has more than doubled since Sept. 11, Lagos said.

Wells Fargo Bank and the California Credit Union have also begun accepting the Mexican consular card as identification to open a bank account. It will also make it easier for immigrants to cash checks.

The ordinance will require a second vote of the council in two weeks to become official.



FOUNDED 1857

Pg B1

TUESDAY December 18, 2001 **

www.sacbee.com

Final edition

The Sacramento Bee

Mexican Consulate delayed by ID requests since Sept. 11

By Dorothy Korber
REDETAILED WRITER

Uneasiness spawned by Sept. 11 is adding to the crush of Mexican citizens flooding the Sacramento consulate for national identification cards, says Consul Luis Enrique Castresana.

Demand for the photo ID cards has more than doubled over last fall, he reports.

"These days, everyone feels the need to carry proper identification," Castresana said in an interview Monday at the downtown Sacramento consulate. "Although December is always a heavy month for us—people need ID to go to Mexico for their holidays—we're seeing a lot more people than is usual."

"This November, we gave out 5,600 identification cards," he said, referring to a computer spreadsheet. "Last year, the same month, we passed out just 2,000 cards. It's a significant increase."

The fact that several U.S. banks now recognize the cards as valid identification also contributes to the increased demand, he said.



Ivan Cruz holds his matricula consular, the identification card he received at the Mexican Consulate. A Mexican immigrant living in Fairfield, he had no official ID before getting the card.

Outside his office, long lines snaked slowly through the consulate as families waited hours to turn in their paperwork, get their picture snapped and pick up the finished cards.

The card, called a "matricula consular" in Spanish, can be used to cross the border to visit Mexico, to provide a government-issued photo ID for airline travel, and to establish a bank account with ATM access.

Such checking accounts—now available through several U.S. banks, including Wells Fargo and Bank of America—allow people

▶ CONSUL, page B4



The Gonzales-Roman family of Reno applies for identification cards at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. As father Antonio and mother Gloria go over the paperwork, their children, from left, Hestor, Diana, Perla and Adrian, wait patiently.

Consul: Card's good for five years

▶ CONTINUED FROM B1

to send money to their families in Mexico without paying the large fees associated with wiring funds internationally.

The card, good for five years, is issued to Mexican nationals who supply a Mexican birth certificate, show proof of a local address and pay a fee.

This month, San Francisco became the first city in the country to recognize the cards as official identification. Orange County police agencies also recognize the card—a decision that provoked protests from anti-immigration activists.

Castresana said a person's im-

migration status has no bearing on the issuing of the card.

"We don't ask if they're here legally," he said. "We are not limiting."

Among those applying for a matricula Monday was 10-year-old Alejandra Alvarado of Galt. The patient girl said she and her family arrived at the consulate at 7 a.m.—an hour before it opened on a cold, rainy morning. At 11:30 a.m., Alejandra had a freshly minted card clutched tightly in her hand.

"We need the cards because we are going to a little village in Mexico—Santa Rosa in Zacatecas—to visit my two grandmas," she

explained.

Castresana said there is always an increase in matricula applicants during November and December, when farm workers fly to visit Mexico during the agricultural slow season.

"They work nine months of the year and go back to Mexico after three," he said.

Sacramento's Mexican Consulate, at 1010 Eighth St., serves counties in northeastern California, from Stanislaus to the Colorado border.

□ □ □
The Bee's Dorothy Korber can be reached at (916) 321-1061 or dkorber@sacbee.com.

Concepcion Hevedia, 24, at left, sits with a crowd of applicants at the Mexican Consulate in Sacramento. The Dixon resident waited five hours last Tuesday to apply for her new identification card.



Sacramento Bee/Dorothy Korber

THE SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

Sunday, November 11, 2001

MEXICAN CONSULATES FACE DELUGE SEEKING ID CARDS FEAR AFTER SEPT. 11 ATTACKS, DISINTEGRATING U.S. ECONOMY DRIVE MANY BACK TO BORDER

By: MICHAEL BAZELEY, Mercury News

Anxious about the faltering U.S. economy and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Mexicans are queuing up in record numbers outside Bay Area consulates, seeking a government ID card that will allow them to return to their native land.

The lines are always long as the holidays approach. But this year they are longer than ever, with Mexicans lining up before dawn, **consular** officials say.

"A lot of people are getting scared because of terrorists," said Pedros Beltran, 31, of Fremont, as he stood outside the San Francisco consulate on Market Street. "And a lot of people are losing jobs, especially the factories."

At the San Jose consulate, on North First Street, officials handed out 2,500 **consular** IDs in October, more than twice the number distributed a year ago. In San Francisco, ID requests are 80 percent higher than last year.

Hugo Vargas, 28, a Mexican national who has lived in the United States for 11 years, said many Mexicans are also worried they'll be harassed by authorities, who may be especially suspicious of non-Americans in the wake of the terrorist attacks.

"After Sept. 11, they want to make sure they have the right kind of IDs if the police stop them," said Vargas as he stood in a long line outside the San Francisco consulate.

The plastic laminated cards -- known as matriculas -- identify the user as a citizen of Mexico and have been around for years. One **consular** official estimated that about 20 percent of Mexicans living in the United States possess such a card.

That number is sure to grow. Mexican officials have started requiring citizens to show the cards or passports when they return to Mexico. And fears of a government crackdown on immigrants is prompting more Mexicans in the United States to start carrying the IDs.

A survey by the San Francisco consulate found that about half the people in its lines wanted the ID cards for use in the United States, not for travel.

"People are worried," said Bernardo Mendes, spokesman for the San Francisco consulate. "They want them because they're worried . . . of being checked. People want better IDs than the paperwork they had before."

Mendes said anxiety may have been fueled by Spanish-language media outlets, which have reported incorrectly that immigration authorities are now patrolling U.S. airports.

October through January is typically a busy time of year for Mexican consulates. With agricultural jobs winding down for the winter, many Mexicans travel home for the holidays.-

Sylvia Anaya, 33, stood in a crowded San Jose consulate waiting room, helping her mother renew her ID card. "Everyone wants to get back in time for the fiesta," she said.

How many of those seeking IDs are leaving the United States for good is not known, consulate officials said. But they said that rising unemployment -- especially since the terrorist attacks -- is affecting large numbers of Mexican workers.

The National Migration Institute in Mexico reported recently that more than 350,000 Mexicans have returned home in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks, and 150,000 more are expected to return home in the coming months.

Beltran said he knows many Mexicans who have been laid off because of economic problems at high-technology companies. Many have decided to return to Mexico. One friend lost his job when a wire company in Union City moved its operations out of state. Now the friend, who owns a home, is deciding whether he can afford to stay.

On other trips to the consulate, Beltran hasn't encountered long lines.

"But now, look at this," he said, pointing to a line of about 200 people. "I got here early, and the line was way back there."

CAPTION: Photos (4)

PHOTO JUDITH CALSON -- MERCURY NEWS

Inside the cramped Mexican consulate in San Jose, people fill out forms. Many Mexican nationals are seeking a government ID card that will allow them to return to Mexico in the wake of Sept. 11 and a poor economy.

PHOTO JUDITH CALSON -- MERCURY NEWS

Hundreds line up in San Jose on Thursday morning, waiting for help in obtaining official government ID cards. Officials handed out 2,500 consular IDs in October, more than twice the number distributed a year ago.

PHOTO JUDITH CALSON -- MERCURY NEWS

(Hand holding the official government ID card)

PHOTO JUDITH CALSON -- MERCURY NEWS

Refugio Barron DeOsuna of San Jose was the first in line to get her government ID card at the San Jose Mexican consulate Thursday. She arrived at 4:30 a.m., and the process took five hours.

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County of Santa Cruz

Sheriff-Coroner

701 Ocean Street, Suite 340, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 454-3042 FAX: (831) 454-2353

Mark Tracy
Sheriff-Coroner

June 12, 2002

Supervisor Tony Campos
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Resolution establishing minimum standards for identification cards and
Authorizing that the Matricula Consular meets these requirements

Dear Supervisor Campos:

I have reviewed and support the attached resolution establishing minimum standards for identification cards. I believe that this resolution will be of assistance to various County agencies in determining the identity of foreign nationals who do not possess currently accepted forms of identification.

As you may be aware, the Sheriff's detention facility, by practice, accepts matriculas as identification for visitors, and for arrestees if the arrestee can provide another form of identification. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark Tracy / smc
Mark Tracy
Mark Tracy

Sheriff-Coroner