

TITLE III

SECTION 300 - USE OF COUNTY VEHICLES

I. General Provisions

A. Purpose

1. The purpose of this section is to establish general procedures for the use of County owned or leased vehicles.
2. For the purpose of these procedures, County vehicles are those County owned or leased vehicles separately administered by the General Services Department.

For information on administrative procedures for vehicles other than those administered by the General Services Department, contact the Department of Public Works.

3. All County vehicles except special purpose law enforcement vehicles and those exempted in writing by the County Administrative Officer shall be identified with an official County emblem and a control inventory number.
4. All registered vehicles, regardless of cost or value and means of acquisition, shall be considered a fixed asset and shall be subject to the fixed asset review and approval process. A form GSD-71 shall be submitted to General Services and approved prior to purchase or acquisition of any vehicle.
5. The County Administrative Office, with Board of Supervisors approval, shall assign all vehicles with a Fleet Services category for purposes of establishing insurance coverage and maintenance replacement requirements. (see Section 300, II.A.1.)

B. Operating Requirements

1. The use and operation of County vehicles shall be in accordance with all applicable State and federal law, California Motor Vehicle rules and regulations, and Chapter 2.32 of the County Code. In addition, applicable County, Personnel Department administrative procedures, and directives of the Board of Supervisors shall at all times be followed. (Refer to Personnel Administrative Manual Title XXIII.4 - Use of County Vehicles).

II. Procedures for Use of General Services Fleet Vehicles

A. General

1. The Fleet Services Division of General Services will provide Administrative overview, maintenance, and replacement of the Service Center Fleet consistent with the following categories:

Category A - vehicles maintained and serviced by Fleet Services and incorporated into the Vehicle Replacement Schedule by Board of Supervisors directive.

Category B - vehicles maintained and serviced by Fleet Services but not incorporated into the Vehicle Replacement Schedule, including vehicles obtained through grant funding.

Category C - vehicles neither serviced nor maintained by Fleet Services and not incorporated into the vehicle Replacement Schedule. These vehicles are maintained by outside service contracts at the operating department's direct expense. These vehicles have a "limited useful" life for specific low mileage purposes in some County operations. Vehicles in this category will be billed separately by the County Risk Management Office for any insurance costs.

2. All vehicles are incorporated into fleet class divisions for the purpose of establishing replacement schedules, determining operational expenditures and establishing vehicle assignment criteria. Vehicle classifications are as follows:

Class Description	Service Years	Mileage
GROUP 100 – SEDANS		
110 Subcompact, compact sedans, wagons	10	100,000
120 Midsize, full size sedans, wagons	10	100,000
GROUP 200 - LIGHT DUTY VEHICLES		
210 Compact pickup trucks	10	100,000
220 Fullsize pickups, vans	10	100,000
230 Minivans (passenger/cargo)	10	100,000
240 4X4 pickup trucks, 4X4 Utility other utility	10	100,000
GROUP 300 - EMERGENCY VEHICLES		
310 Sheriff Patrol cars	4	85,000
320 Sheriff 4X4 pickups/utility	6	50,000
330 Sheriff/DA undercover sedans	6	80,000
340 Sheriff 15 Passenger Bus	3	120,000
350 Sheriff redeployed vehicles	2	120,000

GROUP 400 - HEAVY DUTY VEHICLES

410 Dump Trucks	12	100,000
420 Box Vans	12	100,000

B. Permanent Vehicle Assignments

1. The General Services Department shall approve all departmental requests for permanent vehicle assignments of General Service vehicles.
 - a. All newly assigned and replacement vehicle purchases and leases shall be electric unless otherwise approved by the CAO or his/her designee in writing. In the case of a CAO exemption, GSD will prioritize vehicles that contribute to the least amount of Greenhouse Gas emissions prioritizing hybrid vehicles, and then gasoline/diesel vehicles with the highest miles per gallon rating if a hybrid option is not available.
 - b. To request an exemption by the CAO, a department must demonstrate that they have operational requirements that are specific and quantifiable, that preclude the use of electric vehicles. Departments seeking such discretionary approval from the CAO must submit detailed, written requests explaining their needs and rationale.
 - c. General Services will recommend the assignment of vehicles to a department based on demonstrated need by a department in order to carry out department activities.
 - d. The department head or designee will be responsible for assignment of vehicles within the department and shall ensure that all assignments to individuals are in accordance with all County codes, policies, procedures or existing labor agreements.
2. The General Services Department may reassign vehicles between departments or functions based on overall County priorities and needs. General Services may exchange same class assigned vehicles between departments to provide for optimum utilization of the overall fleet and as outlined in B4 below.
3. The assignment and reassignment of vehicles will be based on the following general criteria:
 - a. All vehicles must be driven a minimum of 7,000 miles per year on County business to ensure continued assignment.
 - b. All Departments that do not maintain a fleet of vehicles with 75% compliance of the 7,000-mileage utilization standard will be placed on administrative review and or fleet size reduced to meet the 75% compliance Standard. Administrative Review shall require daily utilization logs to be kept for all vehicles assigned to a department indicating the minimum, Date of usage, time of beginning usage, time of end of usage, and mileage utilized during the usage. These logs shall be maintained and delivered to General Services monthly for analysis. Based on analysis vehicle composition will be

modified to achieve compliance with minimum mileage standards.

4. Mid Year Changes in Class

The Fleet Manager or designee is authorized to make short term changes in classes of vehicles in order to accommodate a department's changes in program needs or adjustments needed to maximize utilization of vehicles.

Mid year changes in class will be charged based on the class of vehicle assigned. Permanent changes to vehicle class with higher replacement cost will require funding from the requesting department for the cost differential in vehicles.

5. Reduction of Vehicle Assignments

If a Department has reduced its vehicle needs and turns in an assigned vehicle which is on the replacement program the following criteria will apply: 1) the department will receive a grace period for the remainder of that fiscal year during which time they can submit a GSD-71 and request an additional vehicle of the same class without having to fund the initial cost of the vehicle; 2) requests beyond the fiscal year will be treated as a new request which will require funding for the initial vehicle purchase and 3) requests during the same fiscal year will be subject to availability of the vehicle and approval of an additional vehicle request by General Services.

Departments with vehicle needs which fluctuate during the year should use pool vehicles or other outside options such as short term vehicle rental programs to meet peak demand periods.

C. Regular Overnight Vehicle Assignment

1. All overnight vehicle assignments shall be in compliance with at least one of the criterion below:
 - a. An employee in paid on-call status who is required to respond to emergency conditions with a vehicle specially equipped to meet the work needs of the department.
 - b. An employee who reports to the field rather than his/her office headquarters at least 50% of his/her scheduled work days and the employee lives more than ten miles from headquarters.
 - c. Law enforcement personnel such as Sheriff's Office investigators and District Attorney inspectors routinely required to respond to crime scenes or to pursue investigatory leads outside of normal business hours when use of a personal vehicle would be inappropriate.
2. Overnight vehicle assignments to employees residing outside the geographic boundaries of Santa Cruz County must have prior approval of the County Administrative Office or designee. Such approval must be maintained by the respective department.

3. Each department head or designee will be responsible for ensuring any overnight vehicle assignment is in accordance with all County codes, policies, procedures or existing labor agreements.
4. In special circumstances, department heads may, upon demonstration of need, request and obtain from the County Administrative Officer written exceptions to these guidelines. Such exceptions must be retained on file with the department.

D. Annual Review

Annually, on or before June 30, the County Administrative Officer shall review the permanent and overnight vehicle assignments to assure conformance with these guidelines.

E. Temporary Overnight Vehicle Assignment

On official trips, vehicles may be taken home overnight before or after the trip if, and only if, the trip begins or ends outside regular working hours.

F. Pool Vehicle Use/Assignment

1. General Services maintains a "pool" of County vehicles for assignment to departments with a limited or short-term need.
2. Pool vehicles are available at the Fleet Operations Center located at 691 Ocean Street and Emeline campus.
3. Pool vehicles are generally checked out for one to three days. Vehicles may be checked out for more than three consecutive days up to a maximum of thirty (30) days by a request submitted at least two weeks in advance to Fleet Services, stating time period needed, number of persons using vehicle, purpose, destination, and date and time of expected return. Since the quantity of pool vehicles is limited, requests will be filled at the discretion of the Director of General Services, or his/her designee.
4. Pool Vehicle Check Out Procedures
 - a) In order for Fleet Operations to dispatch a pool vehicle, operators must provide name, phone number or extension, destination, GL org key and a valid California driver's license. A pool vehicle will not be dispatched without ALL information being provided.
 - b) Upon the return of a pool vehicle, operators are required to:
 - 1.) Park vehicle in one of the designated Fleet parking areas.
 - 2.) Note the return mileage and vehicle parking location on the pink dispatch slip.
 - 3.) Return Pool Car keys and pink dispatch slip to Fleet Operations
5. Designated Pool Car Parking Area

- a) Detailed maps and written descriptions will be posted inside and outside of the Fleet Operations office.
- b) Designated Pool parking areas are:
 - 1.) The areas adjacent to Fleet Operations marked A, B, C and D.
 - 2.) In the event that none of the above mentioned parking locations are available, park the pool vehicle diagonally in front of one of the shop doors at Fleet Operations.
- c) Pool vehicles shall not be parked in Employee Only numbered parking spaces in the main parking lot; blocking the fuel pumps at Fleet Operations or any place not designated for fleet parking.
- d) Vehicle operators shall be liable for citations or towing charges resulting from parking a pool vehicle in an unauthorized parking area.

G. Policy on Fleet Rates

The General Services Department Fleet Services Division is operated as an Internal Service Fund with annual operating, vehicle replacement and/or depreciation costs charged back to operating departments. Fleet rates charged to departments will be established by the Board of Supervisors and will be subject to review and revisions annually in conjunction with the budget preparation process.

H. Additional Vehicles

Departments requesting additional vehicles shall budget for the purchase cost of new or leased vehicles plus annual operating/replacement costs in accordance with annual budget instructions from the County Administrative Office. General Services does not budget for additional vehicles and will be unable to supply vehicles unless the original purchase or lease cost and annual operating costs are approved in the budget of the requesting department. Requests for additional vehicles shall be submitted with a GSD-71 form as provided for in the budget instructions.

I. Vehicle Replacement

As long as a department continues to meet the minimum mileage utilization or specialty vehicle requirements, a scheduled Category A vehicle will be replaced as funding is available based upon the mileage or service life criteria, whichever comes first, as stated in Section 300, II.A.1 of this procedure.

J. Redeployment of Sheriff's Vehicles

Vehicles on the replacement schedule are typically removed from service when they meet replacement criteria. There are situations, however, when the vehicles would still have useful life if placed into an alternative service category. In these situations, the vehicle may be reassigned under the following conditions.

1. The practice of redeploying Sheriff's vehicles is intended to prolong and maximize the usefulness and life of fleet vehicles in an economic, efficient

and safe manner. All redeployed vehicles shall be full depreciated prior to redeployment. A vehicle that is redeployed will replace a vehicle currently assigned to the Sheriff's Office. The replaced vehicle will be retired and disposed of per the regular surplus property disposition procedures.

2. Sheriff's patrol sedans, class 310, will remain in regular service prior to possible redeployment for four years or 85,000 miles, whichever comes first. Sheriff's patrol 4x4 pickups/utility vehicles, (Class 320) will remain in regular service prior to possible redeployment for six years or 50,000 miles, whichever comes first. Each class of patrol vehicle may be redeployed at the end of their expected service to an assignment involving less mileage, high speed chase potential, etc. (such as Service Center assignment, School Resource Officer, Community Resource Officer) for an additional two years or maximum of 120,000 miles.
3. Redeployed vehicles will be assigned to Class 350, Category B, and will be maintained and serviced by Fleet Services as part of the County fleet. Redeployed vehicles will be billed to the Sheriff's Office at the same rate as Class 330, Category B, non-replacement vehicles.
4. Any modifications or work needed to accommodate the new use would be at the expense of the user department.

K. Accident Repair/Routine Services and Repairs

It is the goal of the County to maintain a fleet of vehicles, which portray a professional image of County operations to the public. In an effort to achieve this goal, both major and minor body damage to vehicles will normally be repaired unless the vehicle is near the end of its useful life or repair costs exceed the value of the vehicle.

Should a County vehicle be involved in an accident where the cost of the repair/replacement is not recoverable, the department to which the vehicle is assigned will be billed for the cost of repair or for the replacement cost above the vehicle's depreciated value. Expense recovery for vehicles involved in accidents where the driver of the "other" vehicle is found to be at fault will be pursued through County Risk Management.

The General Services Department, Fleet Operations Division, will provide service due stickers on the dashboard of each vehicle maintained indicating the mileage reading when the next servicing is due. It is the responsibility of each operator and department to check the service sticker and notify Fleet Operations when a vehicle requires periodic maintenance. It is also the responsibility of each operator and department to immediately notify fleet operations whenever a mechanical malfunction is suspected and/or immediately when safety hazards are suspected. Malfunctions should be reported to Fleet Operations using a vehicle malfunction report form.

When vehicles receive regularly scheduled maintenance by General Services, they will receive a routine safety inspection and any safety repairs will be completed prior to returning the vehicle to service.

It is each department's responsibility to report assigned vehicle mileage to the Fleet Services Division no later than the third working day of each quarter.

L. Maintenance Inspection of Category C Vehicles

All Category C vehicles shall have an annual safety inspection carried out by a qualified service provider. Fleet Services will advise departments when such an inspection is due, which will be eleven (11) months after the last inspection. A copy

of the inspection report shall be provided to the General Services Fleet Services Manager. The Fleet Services Manager shall be responsible for review of the inspection report and to make recommendations regarding required maintenance for continued operation of the vehicle. If, in the opinion of the Fleet Services Manager, the vehicle is unsafe for continued operation, this will be noted in the recommendations. A copy of these recommendations will be provided to the department head responsible for the vehicle and a copy will be provided to the County Administrative Office.

Category "C" vehicles which are determined to be unsafe for continued operation or which would incur repair costs which exceed the value of the vehicle are to be removed from service by the operating department. When a Category "C" vehicle is removed from service, it will not be replaced and it is the operating department's responsibility to plan for and provide alternative transportation needs. Should the department wish to replace such a vehicle with another Category "C" vehicle, it will be treated as an additional vehicle and require submittal of a GSD-71 and Board approval.

M. Vehicles Requiring Tow Services

Contact Fleet Operations Center at (831) 454-2774 for the current vehicle towing procedures.

N. Surplus Vehicles/Donations to Non-Profit Organizations

General Services fleet vehicles will be replaced and disposed of when they meet the criteria in Section 300, II.A.2 or Section 300, II.J.2. Fleet Services will evaluate all General Services surplus vehicles for possible use by County of Santa Cruz Community Services Non-profit Agencies. Those vehicles found not suitable for the Surplus Vehicles to Non-profit Agency Program will be disposed of at auction. Surplus vehicles will be evaluated on a continual basis by General Services Fleet Division and disposed of at least quarterly, on approval of the Board of Supervisors, either by donation to non-profit agencies or at auction.