

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Office of the County Administrator
ADMINISTRATIVE BULLETIN

Number: 508.5
Date: November 17, 2015
Section: Property and Equipment

SUBJECT: County Vehicle and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Policy, and Clean Air Vehicle Policy and Goals

This bulletin sets forth County policy and guidelines for department requests for acquisition and replacement of County vehicles and equipment.

- I. APPLICABILITY.** This bulletin is applicable to addition and replacement vehicles and equipment to be acquired by County departments either through purchase, lease purchase or donation.
- II. AUTHORITY.** By Board Order, Item C.162, July 18, 2000, proposed County Vehicle/Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Policy

III. POLICY GUIDELINES

Additional and replacement vehicles and equipment to be acquired by County departments either through purchase, lease purchase or donation must be appropriate for the intended use, within the approved budget, safe to operate, and cost efficient both to operate and maintain. The expected annual use of any vehicle should be in excess of 3,000 miles. Dedicated Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) and battery electric vehicles with frequent and demonstrated short trip usage patterns may be exempted from the County minimum mileage requirement. Replacement priority will be given to vehicles and/or equipment that are determined by the Public Works Department Fleet Manager (Fleet Manager) to be unsafe, in the poorest condition, uneconomical to operate or maintain, or have the highest program need.

- A. ACQUISITION OF REPLACEMENT VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT** The acquisition of "replacement" vehicles or equipment may be approved by the Fleet Manager and County Administrator, provided that the vehicle being replaced meets or exceeds the minimum mileage criterion and/or the vehicle/equipment is damaged beyond economical repair as determined by the Fleet Manager.

Vehicles and equipment will be considered for replacement or, in the case of low utilization, reassignment to another function or department, when one or more of the following conditions exist as determined by the Fleet Manager.

1. Replacement parts are no longer available to make repairs
2. Continued use is unsafe
3. Damage has made continued use infeasible
4. Cost of repair exceeds the remaining value

- 5. Low utilization (usage does not exceed 3,000 miles per year) cannot justify ongoing maintenance and insurance costs

B. MILEAGE EVALUATION INTERVALS At the mileage intervals specified below, vehicles will be evaluated to determine their condition and expected life. The Fleet Manager is to make such evaluations in accordance with the following schedule. Evaluations may be conducted sooner under certain conditions, such as when a vehicle needs repairs more often than other vehicles of the same class and age, or when a vehicle has been damaged. After initial evaluations, a vehicle will be re-evaluated every 12,000 miles or until it reaches the end of its life, at which time it will be declared surplus.

VEHICLE TYPE	EVALUATION INTERVAL
Sedans	90,000 miles
Sheriff Patrol Sedans	90,000 miles
Passenger Vans	90,000 miles
Cargo Vans	90,000 miles
Sports Utility Truck	100,000 miles
Pickups and 4x4	100,000 miles
Medium/Heavy Duty Trucks	120,000 miles
Buses	180,000 miles
School Buses	8 years/(inspect every 45 days by law)
Miscellaneous Equipment	Depends on Condition

C. EQUIPMENT ABUSE, NEGLIGENCE, AND MISUSE Departments utilizing County equipment shall be responsible for all costs associated with driver abuse, negligence, or misuse of County equipment. Determination of abuse, negligence, or misuse will be at the discretion of the Fleet Manager. The Fleet Manager shall notify the department using the equipment of any charges covered under this section.

D. VEHICLE CITATIONS, PARKING TICKETS, AND TOLL EVASION NOTICES The department utilizing the equipment shall be responsible for ensuring payment of all citations, parking tickets, and toll evasion notices attributed to any equipment. Citations or tickets attributed to equipment due to administrative reasons (license, titling, registration, etc.) will be the responsibility of the Fleet Manager to resolve, with the exception of expired registration tabs on undercover vehicles. The department utilizing the equipment is responsible for ensuring undercover plated vehicles display a current registration tab.

- E. ACQUISITION OF ADDITIONAL VEHICLES/EQUIPMENT Departments requesting acquisition of an additional vehicle or piece of equipment must demonstrate the need and identify the source of funding for the acquisition and its ongoing maintenance. Funds for the acquisition of additional or replacement vehicles/equipment must be appropriated in the County budget before such acquisition can occur. This appropriation may be included in the annual County Budget adopted by the Board of Supervisors or may occur via a budget appropriation adjustment approved by the Board during the fiscal year. The attached form shall be used for each [Vehicle and Equipment Request Form](#) and forwarded to the County Administrator's Office, Budget Division, upon whose approval the request will be sent to the Fleet Manager for technical recommendations.

Any vehicle and/or equipment that is offered as a donation to the County must be inspected by the Fleet Manager and determined to be in good operating condition, safe, and efficient to operate and maintain prior to acceptance. If the vehicle does not meet these criteria, the donation is not to be accepted. Donated vehicles and equipment require a signed Board Order before the donated equipment may be accepted.

IV. CLEAN AIR VEHICLE POLICY AND GOALS

It is the intent of the County to procure the most fuel efficient and lowest emission vehicles and reduce petroleum fuel consumption. Vehicle and equipment purchases shall be operable on available County alternate fuel sources to the greatest extent practicable and must comply with all applicable clean air and vehicle emission regulations.

- A. VEHICLE PURCHASES Alternate fuel (electric, Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), fuel cell, etc.) vehicles shall be procured to the greatest extent practicable. If an alternate fuel vehicle is not operationally feasible, a hybrid electric vehicle shall be the next type considered for procurement. Vehicle purchases other than alternate fuel or hybrid electric require specific justification and approval by the Fleet Manager and shall be rated no lower than Partial Zero Emission Vehicle (PZEV) by the California Air Resources Board when possible.

- B. EXEMPTION FROM CLEAN AIR VEHICLES POLICY Marked emergency response vehicles (e.g. police patrol, fire, paramedic, and other Code 3 equipped units), may be exempt from the Clean Air Vehicle Policy. The Fleet Manager may also grant exemptions for vehicles used primarily for prisoner transport or when no alternate fuel or low emission vehicle is available that meets the essential vehicle requirements or specifications. The intended use of the vehicle shall be the determining criteria for granting a Clean Air Vehicle Policy exemption.

V. DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITY

A. Department Head or Designee assigned vehicles

1. Designate a department staff person to serve as the departments point of contact for all fleet related issues
2. Ensure safe operation of all vehicles and bringing in vehicles to the Fleet Services Center for scheduled preventative maintenance and safety inspection when requested by the Fleet Manager
3. Budget appropriately for all expenses
4. Prepare and submit [Vehicle and Equipment Request Form](#) to the County Administrator's Office, Budget Division for approval of replacement and/or addition of vehicles
5. Enter correct mileage when purchasing fuel
6. Ensure vehicle meets minimum use guidelines
7. Notify Fleet Manager of any vehicle assignment changes

B. County Administrator's Office

1. Review requests for purchase of vehicles for operational need, compliance with County policy, and budgetary impact.

C. Public Works Department – Fleet Services Division

1. Administer and oversee the County Fleet including providing regular preventative maintenance and repairs.
2. Budget for the acquisition and replacement of vehicles and/or equipment
3. Prepare annual report and summary of the distribution of light vehicles and heavy equipment by department for the current fiscal year, the two prior fiscal years, and the recommended distribution for the new fiscal year.

4. Develop light duty vehicle and equipment specifications to increase alternate fuel (CNG, electric, fuel cell, etc.) hybrid electric, and partial zero or less emission vehicle purchases.
5. Identify and procure suitable alternate fuels for use in County vehicles
6. Monitor and identify non-County alternate fuel locations for use by County vehicles

Originating Department(s):

County Administrator's Office
Public Works Department

Information Contacts:

County Administrator's Office –Management Analyst Liaison
County Fleet Manager at 925.313.7072

Update Contact:

County Administrator Senior Deputy, Municipal Services

/s/

David Twa
County Administrator