



Agenda Date: 6/27/2006
Agenda Placement: 6A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Carol Strobel for Gary Lieberstein - District Attorney
District Attorney
REPORT BY: Carol Strobel, Administrative Services Officer, 253-4215
SUBJECT: Purchase of a vehicle

RECOMMENDATION

District Attorney and Director of Public Works requests approval of Budget Transfer No. 75 in the amount of \$21,000 increasing appropriations in the Equipment Pool budget with offsetting revenue from the District Attorney budget to establish a fixed asset in the amount of \$21,000 for the purchase of a vehicle for the investigator assigned to the Gang Grant. (4/5 vote required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the Gang Violence Suppression program is to reduce the level of gang violence in communities and to divert potentially dangerous gang activity into a more positive and constructive behavior. This vehicle is to be used by the Prosecution's District Attorney's Gang Investigator in his duties of investigating gang activity and educating the community in recognizing gang activity and potential gang activity. Public Works is not recommending the purchase of a hybrid vehicle at this time due to cost, delivery time, and size requirements.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact?	Yes
Is it currently budgeted?	No
What is the revenue source?	The State Office of Emergency Services has authorized the District Attorney's Office to purchase this vehicle with \$17,500 of State funds from the fiscal year 2005-2006 funding cycle of the Gang Violence Suppression Program. The additional \$3,500 will be transferred from the District Attorney's Travel expense line while still maintaining the minimum reduction in Net County Cost of \$92,400 approved by the Board in December 2005.
Is it Mandatory or Discretionary?	Discretionary

Discretionary Justification:	While discretionary in nature, the funds can only be used for gang activities. These are one time State funds that will have to be utilized by fiscal year 2005-2006 close.
Is the general fund affected?	Yes
Future fiscal impact:	The District Attorney's Office will budget for maintenance and depreciation of the vehicle in future years within their normal operating budget.
Consequences if not approved:	If purchase of this vehicle is not approved the funds will not be used and therefore forfeited to the State. This will also free the current County vehicle being used by the Gang Investigator for use by other investigators who are currently sharing cars.
Additional Information:	None

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The purpose of the Gang Violence Suppression Program is to reduce the level of gang violence in the community and divert potentially dangerous gang activity into a more positive and constructive behavior. The purpose of this multi-component model is to develop comprehensive, coordinated projects by a group of agencies focusing their efforts on specific target areas. The multi-component project includes at least one agency representing each of the five components of the Gang Violence Suppression program: law enforcement (NSO, NPD, SHPD, CPD), prosecution (District Attorney's Office), prevention (community-based organization - Aldea) and education (NCOE).

The District Attorney's Gang Investigator initiates and pursues the investigation of alleged gang activity cases reported to the District Attorney's Office by law enforcement. He coordinates all of the County law enforcement agencies intelligence gathering and sharing of suspected gang information. He also travels throughout this county and other Northern California counties training law enforcement, parents, educators, and the public in recognizing and dealing with gang activity. As a recognized expert witness, he testifies in trials wherever needed.

This GVS funded vehicle will free his current vehicle to be used by other investigators who are currently using County pool vehicles, thus saving the department that expense.

This is one time funding that if not utilized for the purchase of this vehicle will revert to the State as it can not be carried forward to another funding year.

Alternative Energy Vehicle Option

At the budget hearings, the Board discussed whether the County should become more pro-active in pursuing alternative energy vehicles (for example, hybrid and bio-diesel fuel) that exceed minimum air quality and fuel efficiency standards. This discussion was not only premised on the need to lower fuel costs to the County, but also for the County to take further reasonable actions to combat global warming. The Public Works Department has been pilot testing the limited use of hybrid technology as part of its evaluation of whether this technology can be used for specific fleet requirements. The Public Works Department will return at a later date with a

comprehensive presentation to seek further Board guidance on this issue.

Because of the timing of this agenda item, Public Works is in the process of acquiring competitive bids for hybrid four-door vehicles in the Honda Accord and Toyota Camry classification, and the Ford 500 which is the present vehicle model used for Sheriff and District Attorney investigators. It is estimated that this hybrid vehicle classification will cost at least \$10,000 more than the Ford 500. Based upon the present life cycle of fleet vehicles, gasoline prices would need to reach \$7.40 per gallon for the County to recover the anticipated higher acquisition cost of a hybrid vehicle. The County would save \$4,735 in fuel costs based upon an average price of \$3.50 a gallon. At most, the County may be eligible for up to a \$2,000 grant assuming there are sufficient grant funds available. However, the County has not been successful in recent grant applications pertaining to retrofitting its fleet due to limited grant funding. Therefore, the Board would need to consider the benefit of lower emissions as an additional factor to outweigh the overall higher cost if it wished purchase a hybrid vehicle in lieu of the Ford 500. Another consideration is that it typically takes a longer time period to deliver hybrid vehicles than traditional gasoline powered vehicles.

The District Attorney has indicated that a hybrid vehicle in the classification standards of a four-door Toyota Camry or Honda Accord is acceptable for the needs of the investigator. However, if the Board directs that a hybrid vehicle be purchased in lieu of the Ford 500, the District Attorney will not be able to meet the net county cost reduction amount as indicated in the fiscal analysis.

The present action before the Board is based upon the purchase of the Ford 500. If the Board directs to purchase an alternative hybrid vehicle, the budget transfer will need to be amended to reflect such action.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

None

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Helene Franchi