



JIM McDONNELL, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



A Tradition of Service

May 05, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESOLUTION TO INCREASE VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES TO FUND
LOS ANGELES COUNTY'S TASKFORCE FOR
REGIONAL AUTOTHEFT PREVENTION
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Los Angeles County (County) Sheriff's Department (Department) requests that the Board adopt the attached Resolution authorizing an increase in vehicle registration fees pursuant to Assembly Bill 1404, to allow for an increase in funding for the County's Taskforce For Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP).

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

Adopt the attached Resolution authorizing an increase in the vehicle registration fees paid at the time of registration or renewal of a vehicle registered to an address within the County from one dollar to two dollars, and from two dollars to four dollars on commercial vehicles, as authorized by Assembly Bill 1404, which amended California Vehicle Code (C.V.C.) Section 9250.14.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

On July 28, 1992, the Board adopted a resolution to impose a one dollar vehicle registration fee on vehicles, as authorized by Senate Bill 2139, codified in C.V.C. Section 9250.14. On September 29, 2000, the Legislature authorized the collection of an additional two dollar registration fee on commercial vehicles, effective January 1, 2001. These funds are used for the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of vehicle theft in the County. Assembly Bill 1404 amended C.V.C. Section 9250.14, effective January 1, 2013, to authorize the Board, by Resolution, to increase the vehicle registration fees from one dollar to two dollars on vehicles, and from two dollars to four dollars on commercial vehicles.

The purpose of the increased funding is to raise the level of effectiveness TRAP has against the crime of auto theft. TRAP has been the County's vehicle theft program since 1993. TRAP was established under the direction of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee (CCJCC) with the Sheriff designated as the regional coordinator. In 1993, TRAP consisted of more than 50 investigators from law enforcement agencies throughout the County. TRAP's budget, derived from the vehicle registration fees, funds Salaries and Employee Benefits, and other costs associated with TRAP.

During the last 21 years, TRAP has been reduced in size to stay within its operating budget. The number of registered vehicles in the County has risen slightly over time, and the rising personnel costs caused by simple inflation have far outpaced the growth of TRAP's budget. With the increased funding, TRAP will be able to assign more investigators and prosecutors to the taskforce, thereby having greater effectiveness in combating vehicle theft.

As of November 2014, six counties in California have approved similar resolutions and are now receiving increased vehicle registration fees. The counties include Sacramento, Marin, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, San Mateo, and Solano.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This request conforms to the County's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability; and Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery, by maximizing opportunities to measurably improve client and community outcomes, and leverage resources through the continuous integration of health, community, and public safety services.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

There will be no fiscal impact to the County's budget. The additional revenue generated from the vehicle registration fees will increase the effectiveness of TRAP. If approved, the additional revenues for TRAP will be approximately \$7.4 million annually and will be used to fund Salaries and Employee Benefits, and other costs associated with TRAP.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Legislature found this legislation necessary due to the operating revenue deficits that counties are facing in their vehicle theft programs.

Vehicle registration fees are collected by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and paid quarterly to the State Controller for disbursement to the County. Vehicle registration fees collected and allocated to the County shall be expended exclusively to fund programs that enhance the capacity of local police and prosecutors to deter, investigate, and prosecute vehicle theft crimes. The revenue collected shall not be expended to offset a reduction in any other source of funds, nor for any purpose not authorized under C.V.C. Section 9250.14.

The attached Resolution authorizes the increase in the vehicle registration fees and requests the DMV commence collection of the increased vehicle registration fees as soon as reasonably practicable. Pursuant to C.V.C. Section 9250.14, the Resolution shall be submitted to the DMV at least six months prior to the operative date of the fee increase.

The attached Resolution has been approved as to form by County Counsel.

Proposition 26

Proposition 26 defines "tax" as a "levy, charge, or exaction of any kinds" paid by taxpayers subject to certain conditions. Local governments must show that a charge is reasonable and falls under a permissible exception. Such exceptions include, but are not limited to, charges imposed for the reasonable regulatory costs to a local government for performing investigations and the related administrative enforcement thereof. The vehicle registration fees allocated to the TRAP program qualifies as a regulatory fee for the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of vehicle theft crimes. The increased fees do not exceed the reasonable costs to the County for TRAP.

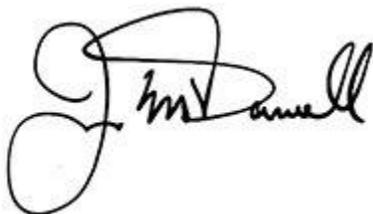
IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended action will allow for TRAP to increase its effectiveness in deterring, investigating, and prosecuting vehicle theft. No other County departments are impacted by this request.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, please return a certified copy of the adopted Board letter and two original signed Resolutions to the Department's Administrative and Training Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim McDonnell". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a cursive "McDonnell".

JIM McDONNELL

Sheriff

JM:RJS:jde

Enclosures

**RESOLUTION
OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO INCREASE VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES
TO FUND VEHICLE THEFT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, on July 28, 1992, the Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution imposing a one dollar (\$1) vehicle registration fee, as authorized by Senate Bill 2139, codified at California Vehicle Code section 9250.14, to fund vehicle theft programs in the County of Los Angeles (County); and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff of Los Angeles County is the regional coordinator for the deterrence, investigation, and prosecution of vehicle theft in the County, and the Taskforce for Regional Autotheft Prevention (TRAP) has been the County vehicle theft program since 1992; and

WHEREAS, on September 29, 2000, the Legislature enacted the Commercial Vehicle Registration Act of 2001, which amended California Vehicle Code section 9250.14, effective January 1, 2001, to impose the collection of an additional two dollar (\$2) vehicle registration fee on commercial vehicles subject to California Vehicle Code section 9400.1; and

WHEREAS, Assembly Bill 1404, chaptered September 29, 2012, amended California Vehicle Code section 9250.14, effective January 1, 2013, authorizing the Board of Supervisors to increase the vehicle registration fees, which are payable at the time of registration or renewal of registration of a vehicle registered to an address within the County, due to the operating revenue deficits facing the County vehicle theft program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the increase in vehicle registration fees from one dollar (\$1) to two dollars (\$2) on vehicles and from two dollars (\$2) to four dollars (\$4) on commercial vehicles, as authorized by California Vehicle Code section 9250.14.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors formally requests that the California Department of Motor Vehicles implement and commence collection of the increased vehicle registration fees authorized hereunder, as soon as reasonably practicable, in accordance with California Vehicle Code section 9250.14.

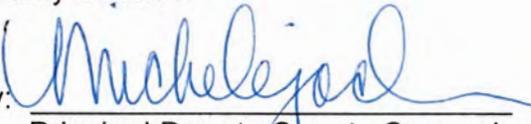
**RESOLUTION
OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TO INCREASE VEHICLE REGISTRATION FEES
TO FUND VEHICLE THEFT PROGRAM**

The foregoing Resolution was on the _____ day of _____, 2015, adopted by the Board of Supervisors of Los Angeles County and ex officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts, agencies, and authorities for which said Board so acts.

PATRICK OGAWA
Acting Executive Officer-Clerk
of the Board of Supervisors of
the County of Los Angeles

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
MARK J. SALADINO
County Counsel

By: 
Principal Deputy County Counsel