



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

FESIA A. DAVENPORT
Chief Executive Officer

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Fifth District

March 22, 2021

To: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Fesia A. Davenport
Chief Executive Officer

REPORT ON COUNTY FLEET VEHICLE PURCHASING RESTRICTIONS (ITEM NO. 2, AGENDA OF DECEMBER 10, 2019)

In December 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted a motion by Supervisors Kuehl and Hahn, directing the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) and the County Purchasing Agent to submit a revision of County vehicle purchasing policies to address two issues: 1) require that the County of Los Angeles (County) only purchase vehicles from automakers that recognize the State of California's authority under the Federal Clean Air Act to set motor vehicle emissions standards; and 2) align the County fleet vehicle purchasing policy with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan by requiring the purchase of zero emissions vehicles, where commercially available, and that meet operational needs. The Internal Services Department (ISD) is responding to the Board in a separate correspondence with proposed recommended revisions to the fleet vehicle purchasing policy to effectuate its request to implement the OurCounty Sustainability Plan's recommendations for the County's fleet vehicles.

The Board's motion supported California's actions to prevent action by the Federal government and several automakers to revoke the State's authority to set its own vehicle emissions standards to limit greenhouse gases and criteria air pollutants. The motion demonstrated the Board's commitment to continuing the County's long-standing leadership on air quality, which began over seven decades ago as the first agency to establish rules to address industrial air pollution. By directing the development of this policy, the Board made clear to the automotive industry that it wanted to spend public dollars in a manner consistent with its public health and climate change goals.

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In response, the CSO developed a proposed new Board policy that would implement the Board's directive of limiting vehicle purchases to automakers that have affirmatively agreed to accept California's authority to set motor vehicle standards. This policy was considered and approved by the Board's Audit Committee last fall. However, with the recent change in Federal administration, both the Federal government and auto manufacturers have retreated from the lawsuit.

President Biden has committed to an all-of-government approach to tackling climate change, which includes the strengthening of vehicle emissions standards. In particular, the Administration has indicated that the voluntary agreement that California established with a select group of automakers in 2019 that supported the State's continued authority is a likely starting point for its own efforts on vehicle emissions standards.

General Motors, which had formerly sided with the Federal government to challenge California's authority on vehicle emissions standards, recently announced its departure from that litigation. In the same announcement, General Motors also stated a goal to exclusively manufacture zero emissions vehicles by 2035. Other automakers, including Toyota, have also recently announced their intention to withdraw from the litigation.

Given the significant change in circumstances, the underlying impetus for the new policy no longer exists and, therefore, the policy is now moot. As such, the CSO is no longer recommending its adoption. The CSO does continue to recommend that the Board approve the revised fleet vehicle purchasing policy proposed by ISD to align Board Policy 3.020 with the OurCounty Sustainability Plan. ISD will be submitting the revised policy to the Board under a separate transmittal.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact me or Gary Gero, Chief Sustainability Officer, at (213) 974-1160 or ggero@ceo.lacounty.gov.

FAD:JMN:TJM
GG:KTP:jg

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Internal Services