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Staff Report

**ITEM
NO.** 7

To: **Lemoore City Council**
From: **Judy Holwell, Redevelopment Project Manager**
Date: **March 27, 2007**
Subject: **Renewal of Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Program**

Discussion:

The City of Lemoore has participated in the statewide Abandoned Vehicle Abatement (AVA) program since 1996. This voluntary program authorizes participating jurisdictions to assess a \$1.00 per vehicle surcharge on each vehicle registration issued within the relevant county. Those funds are collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and remitted through the Secretary of State to each joint Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority. In Kings County, the Kings County Association of Governments (KCAG) is the designated AVA Service Authority. Each quarter, the Service Authority allocates the funds back to each participating agency within the county to reimburse the agencies for actual costs involved in removing abandoned and other derelict motor vehicles from the community.

The original authorization to DMV to collect the \$1.00 per vehicle registration, approved by the City Council in 1996, was valid for a period of 10 years. The Service Authority may elect to extend the fee in increments of up to ten years each if the City Council, by a two-thirds vote, and a majority of the cities having a majority of the incorporated population within the county, adopt resolutions providing for the extension. The original fee resolution, which provides funding for the Kings County program, is now expiring and due for renewal. If renewal is approved, the program will continue as is for another 10 years until 2016. At that time, the county and cities would have the option to extend again.

The purpose of the AVA program is to provide some reimbursement to local governments for the costs involved in removing abandoned, wrecked or otherwise derelict motor vehicles from private property. The funds are made available to the county and cities according to a formula which takes into account the geographic size, populations, and number of abated vehicles within each jurisdiction. From those allocated funds, each agency can claim reimbursement for actual costs at a rate of \$70.50 for each "voluntary abatement," in which the vehicle is removed by the owner after a warning, and \$141.00 plus towing costs for those vehicles that are actually removed and scrapped at city or county expense.

In order to participate in the state AVA reimbursement program, each local AVA Service Authority must include the participation of both the county and enough of the incorporated cities within the county to comprise a majority of the incorporated population. In the case of Kings County, the program participants include the county and all of the incorporated cities. All four (4) cities have expressed interest in continuing the program, contingent on approval of each of the participants. A resolution of each governing body is sufficient to authorize continued collection of the \$1.00 vehicle registration surcharge which funds the program.

Budget Impact:

Unknown at this time.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt Resolution No. 2007-10 authorizing continued collection of \$1.00 vehicle registration surcharge to fund the AVA program for the period 2007-2016.