

**MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY**  
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**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** September 11, 2008  
**TO:** MGSA Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Paul Berlant, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** AGENDA ITEM **D-1**: TAXICAB REGULATION PROGRAM UPDATE

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Recommendation: Receive this report and provide direction as necessary.

Background:

After spending the late spring and summer enrolling taxicab drivers in the regulation program, staff has the following statistics and observations to report.

Statistics:

Driver Permits issued-105; Driver Permits pending-23; Driver Permit applications failed or incomplete-11; Driver Permit denials appealed-2; Taxicab businesses which have applied for a permit-12 (four submitted in July and August); Vehicles to be permitted-77 (74 taxi meters have been inspected by County Weights and Measures and three are from new companies).

The businesses have all paid their application fees. However, vehicle permit fees and inspections remain pending. Staff intends to issue businesses and associated vehicle permits together. Staff needs direction on the type and method of vehicle inspection as discussed in Item D-2 on this Board agenda. Also, since the business permits list drivers who frequently turnover, this provision of the regulations should be examined.

Staff will be meeting with Police Chiefs in October to provide background, answer questions, and make ourselves available to those who will be the first line of enforcement. Since each town/city/County adopted the model ordinance, which references MGSA regulations, violations of our regulations are violations of municipal codes. Ongoing coordination with the towns/cities/County will be important, as the businesses and drivers who are cooperating want to feel this is a fair system and frequently communicate with staff on what their competition is doing. There is also confusion with City Clerks on their role with driver business licenses. MGSA permits do not take the place of business licenses, if required by local codes.

New drivers and businesses continue to apply. The relative ease of entry to becoming a taxicab business in Marin County seems to be attracting interest of new companies. The Board has heard from company representatives of their desire to have a limit on the number of companies permitted. The Board has expressed the view that this issue is up to each local jurisdiction and not a matter for MGSA. The numbers of companies, drivers and vehicles will vary over time with the demand for taxi service.