

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 14, 2006
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Martin J. Nichols, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C: REQUEST TO AMEND TAXICAB REGULATION PROGRAM

Recommended Action: Determine Board interest in amending the Taxicab Regulation Program to limit the number of taxicab companies.

Background:

I have received the attached letter from Mr. Peter Wert, North Bay Cooperative Taxi, requesting amendments to the Taxicab Regulation Program to limit the number of cab companies in Marin.

In the adopted program, the “certificates of public convenience and necessity concept,” under which each agency issued limited taxi permits was abandoned for a countywide program under which there are no limits on the number of taxi companies. This policy decision was discussed in detail with the taxicab committee when the program and regulations were being completed last year. The policy principle was that the free market would determine the number of taxicab companies and that there was no a public policy reason to do otherwise.

If you Board has interest in a change in policy to return to the limited permits concept, we would need to research the legal basis for such a policy. We have not incurred this cost pending a discussion by your Board.

Prevailing practices in the region are as follows:

San Francisco	Medallions/Limited number of permits
NORTHBAY	
Napa (City)	Certificate of Public Convenience
Petaluma	Business Permit only
Rohnert Park	Certificate of Public Convenience
Santa Rosa	Business Permit only
SOUTHBAY	
Daly City	Certificate of Public Convenience
San Bruno	Certificate of Public Convenience
EASTBAY	
Berkeley	Limited number of Permits
Oakland	Certificate of Public Convenience