

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY
371 Bel Marin Keys Blvd., Suite 100, Novato, CA 94949
PHONE: (415) 883-9100 FAX: (415) 883-9155

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 10, 2008
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM C: PROGRESS REPORT ON TAXICAB REGULATION PROGRAM

Recommendation: Receive the progress report from staff.

Background:

The Board has requested regular updates on the Marin County Taxi Regulation Program. This report provides an update as to activities in December and what we expect over the next 60 days.

On December 31, 2007, a letter and attachments were sent to the six currently operating taxicab companies and two individuals who inquired about regulations of taxi service in Marin County. The letter describes what is required of the taxicab companies, their owners and managers, and their drivers. It also provides the fee schedule to obtain company, vehicle, and driver permits. Among the attachments to the letters were copies of the MGSA taxicab regulations, which further specify operator requirements. Copies of the letter were sent to the County Clerk and all city clerks, law enforcement, and the District Attorney's office.

Briefly, taxicab company owners will be required to undergo background checks and training, drivers will be required to undergo background checks, annual and random drug/alcohol tests, obtain business licenses where required if they are independent contractor, and vehicles will require inspections to show compliance with MGSA and California Vehicle Code safety and other standards. If owner/operators and drivers comply with the regulations and schedules outlined in the letter, all companies, drivers and vehicles should be properly permitted by the end of March 2008.

In preparing the letter and attachments, Deborah Creech has researched other taxicab regulatory programs and has identified amendments to our regulations that warrant Board consideration. Further, we have learned that our fee structure may be overly generous to the operators and drivers. Ms. Creech and I intend to recommend amendments to the regulations and fee schedule in March. Our thinking is that MGSA had reached an agreement with owner/operators, which resulted in the current program, fees, and regulations. Once all have come into compliance with this program, we feel it appropriate to consider tightening up on the program for future renewals and new businesses.