December 17, 2019

Re: Alignment of Vehicle Purchasing Policies with State of California

Dear Colleagues:

Supervisors Sears and Rice are recommending that the Board of Supervisors adopt a resolution aligning the County’s vehicle purchasing policies with new policies established by the State of California.

In a response to the Trump administration’s roll back of Obama’s tougher admissions standards and challenge of the state’s authority to set tougher pollution standards, California has put into place two new fleet purchasing policies:

- Effective immediately, state agencies are prohibited from purchasing any sedans solely powered by an internal combustion engine, with exemptions for certain public safety vehicles
- Starting in 2020, state agencies are required to only purchase vehicles from manufacturers that recognize the California Air Resources Board (CARB)’s authority to set greenhouse gas and zero emission vehicle standards, and that have committed to continuing stringent emissions reduction goals for their fleets

Currently, the County’s fleet consists of 482 vehicles, with 20% being eco-friendly (EVs, hybrid). By replacing gas or diesel vehicles with hybrid or electric (whenever possible) and purchasing from manufacturers that side with the State, recognizing its authority to set tougher state-level standards on tailpipe pollution, the County can further its commitment to emissions reductions.

This adoption would also serve as a model for other public agencies to follow suit for a powerful broad effort toward combatting climate change.

Respectfully,

Kathrin Sears

Katie Rice