

October 1, 2002

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVAL OF DONATION OF 26 ELECTRIC THINK NEIGHBOR
VEHICLES FROM THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION TO
VARIOUS COUNTY PARK SITES
(All Districts - 3-Vote Matter)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Authorize the Director of Parks and Recreation to execute an agreement with the National Parks Foundation for the donation of 26 Th!nk Neighbor Vehicles Program with an appraised value of \$213,270, for use in various County parks.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recently our Department was approached by the National Park Foundation who asked if we would be interested in receiving electric vehicles to be used at County Park sites, made possible in part through the generous support of Ford Motor Company. By contacting our Agency staff throughout the County we developed a list of potential park placements of these vehicles, should they be awarded. Upon delivery of the 26 electric Th!nk Neighbor Vehicles, they become the property of our Department. In accordance with County policy, donations with a value in excess of \$10,000 require acceptance by your Board.

We will receive five (5) two-seat and twenty-one (21) four-seat vehicles. These vehicles travel 30 miles on a single overnight charge from a standard household

current and can carry a payload of 600 and 1,000 pounds respectively, for the two seat and the four seat models. Using these vehicles will reduce fuel and maintenance costs compared to gasoline vehicles. In addition to the environmental benefits of reducing air pollution emissions within parks, these vehicles have quiet engines, reducing noise pollution that disrupts a park's ecosystem's natural soundscape. The Th!nk Neighbor Program will also provide interpretive opportunities to discuss alternative transportation methods with park patrons and hopefully increase the awareness of the general public on the importance of parks and our mission to protect the environment.

Upon acceptance, these 26 Th!nk Neighbor electric vehicles will be placed in parks throughout the County that are large in size (primarily regional facilities), are in need of a cost-efficient mode of transportation to maintain or supervise the site, and/or are located in economically challenged areas. All the vehicles come with a three-year warranty and park sites will receive an owner's manual, video, and handbook on Th!nk Neighbor routine maintenance. Any interpretive media, educational vehicles, technical reports, or other documents relating to the donated vehicles must include donor recognition language as stated in the agreement package.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The authorization to accept this award enhances Fiscal Responsibility (Goal number 4 of the County's Strategic Plan) by increasing the Department's public/private partnerships. In addition, the 26 electric vehicles awarded through the National Park Foundation Program will provide the Department with additional resources that enable us to more thoroughly inspect and/or maintain our park sites.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund, although there will be a cost to the Department to care for, store, and to maintain these vehicles at the respective park sites. These costs will be absorbed within the Department's existing budget. There is also the cost to register the vehicles each year, which is the total fair market value of the vehicles (\$213,270) multiplied by the sales tax at 8.25 percent. The initial cost for the Department to register 26 Th!nk Neighbor vehicles will be \$17,595. These costs will depreciate each year.

FINANCING

Not applicable.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/ LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

State law authorizes acceptance of gifts for specific County purposes in Government Code Section 25355. The agreement with the National Park Foundation has been reviewed by County Counsel.

Honorable Board of Supervisors

October 1, 2002

Page 3

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES AND PROJECTS

There is no impact on current services or projects as a result of this action. If the vehicles are accepted, the vehicles will be transported to each agency without operational impact on the specific facilities.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that two (2) conformed copies of this action be returned to the Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Gallagher
Director

sg

C: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

vehicles.doc