Agenda Item 3d

METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Legislation Committee DATE: April 3, 2015

FR: Executive Director W. I. 1131

RE: SB 773 (Allen): Vehicle Registration Enforcement: University of California Study

Background
SB 773 would require the University of California to conduct a study into motor vehicle registration fraud to identify the scope of the problem and recommend potential solutions to address it. According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, unregistered vehicles pollute at very high rates compared to the average vehicle in California and compared to registered vehicles of the same make and model. This is not surprising since a major reason identified for failure to register is to avoid having to undergo the Smog Check Program and the potential repairs associated with bringing a car into compliance. While there is no definitive estimate of the total number of unregistered vehicles on the road, estimates range from approximately 1 percent to over 8 percent.

Recommendation: Support

Discussion
In addition to negative air quality impacts associated with unregistered vehicles, there is also a negative impact on local and state revenue. For instance, MTC's SAFE Program is reliant upon a local $1 vehicle registration fee to fund Freeway Service Patrol, 511 and other key motorist aid programs. The BAAQMD's Transportation Fund for Clean Air Program is reliant upon a $6 vehicle registration fee. Further, since 2011, five Bay Area counties depend on a $10/vehicle voter-approved vehicle registration fee (Alameda, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara) to help support a variety of transportation improvements. Given the air quality benefits and potential increased transportation and local government funds that would be generated by improved compliance with vehicle registration requirements, staff recommends a support position on SB 773.

Known Positions

Support
Bay Area Air Quality Management District

Oppose
None on file

Steve Heminger

SH: RL
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