

MARIN GENERAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

555 Northgate Drive, Suite 230, San Rafael, CA

PHONE: (415) 448-0359

www.maringsa.org

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 14, 2013
TO: MGSA Board of Directors
FROM: Paul Berlant, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: AGENDA ITEM: D: Taxicab Regulation Program Update

Recommendation Accept this update regarding the Marin County Taxi Regulation Program.

Inventory Update

There are currently 22 companies using 24 brand names. This is an increase of three companies since the last report in January, but the same as reported in September 2012. There are also two additional companies which have already applied and paid for an annual business permit. This figure is consistent with the last inventory report with some companies ceasing business and other new companies starting.

The current vehicle count is down from 114 in January to 101 in March. It is anticipated that permits for another seven vehicles will not be renewed in March, but as noted above, with two new companies already in the permit process, the vehicle count will fluctuate. The driver count continues to rise with 201 drivers currently permitted. This number has consistently risen in the last several months, but it is difficult to keep track of how active all the drivers actually are. Some drivers may discontinue participation in the future.

Taxicab Regulation Activity

When new companies apply for taxicab business permits, it usually takes a few to several months for the applicants to get their vehicles, insurance, and meters complete and ready for operation. Because of the cost and learning curve involved, staff has been allowing these new companies some time to start the clock on their one-year permits.

Approximately half of the currently permitted companies were grandparented with five-year company permits under the original fee schedule when MGSA first began regulating taxi cabs in 2008. These companies first met with MGSA staff and filed applications in early 2008. However, as MGSA staff was starting up the program and had to go through its own learning curve to get the program running, we started slowly by only issuing permits to the drivers. These driver permits were issued in July 2008. The initial five year company permits were not issued until early 2009. Following the current practice

noted above, these old grandparented company permits will expire in early 2014. It is not until that time that they will become “new companies” under the current permit fee schedule and have to renew annually. The implication for MGSA is that FY 2013-14 will result in renewal of several company permits and numerous driver permits.