



CLEARLAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422

Andrew White | Chief of Police

September 7, 2022

Honorable Michael S. Lunas
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Lake
255 N. Forbes Street, 4th Floor
Lakeport, CA 95453

SUBJECT: Response to 2021-2022 Grand Jury Final Report Entitled: "Persistent Blight on the Landscape: Abandoned Vehicles in Lake County"

Dear Judge Lunas:

Pursuant to California Penal Code Section 933.05(a), (b), and (c), the following are my responses as Chief of Police of the Clearlake Police Department, which includes the Code Enforcement Bureau, to the findings and recommendations in the above-entitled Grand Jury Report:

FINDINGS

- F-1 Agree.
- F-2 Agree.
- F-3 Agree.
- F-4 Agree.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R-2 Will not be implemented.

That the Clearlake Police Department dedicate one Code Enforcement Officer full-time to the abatement of abandoned vehicles.

Assigning a code enforcement officer full-time to the abatement of abandoned vehicles is not financially feasible at the current time and would negatively impact Code Enforcement's ability to address other violations that impact the community.

The code enforcement supervisor and two officers address the abatement of abandoned vehicles as part of their case load in their assigned areas. A third officer focuses on the tagging and abatement of abandoned vehicles but not to the exclusion of other important duties, such as supporting the two officers in addressing overgrown and hazardous vegetation.



Grand Jury Response
9/7/2022

The obstacle to removing more abandoned vehicles in the City is not workload capacity, but rather funding for the towing and abatement of the vehicles. The department has been proactive in tackling this challenge by revamping the parking citation process, leveraging technology to make the process more efficient, proposing ordinance amendments to strengthen the laws related to abandonment of vehicles and requesting budget increases above and beyond what is distributed through the Abandoned Vehicle Abatement Service Authority (AVA).

The removal of abandoned vehicles from Clearlake is a priority and the evidence of that is in our tagging and towing statistics. The appropriation of funding well above and beyond what is distributed through AVA is evidence of the City Council's commitment to this effort.

I would like to thank the Grand Jury for their efforts in completing this report and their recommendations. We especially appreciate the members who took the time to meet with our staff and learn more about the challenges and opportunities related to this subject.

Best Regards,

ANDREW WHITE
Chief of Police