



**CITY of CALABASAS**

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT**

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**DATE: JUNE 8, 2022**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS**

**FROM: MICHAEL KLEIN, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR  
MICHAEL MCCONVILLE, SENIOR MANAGEMENT ANALYST**

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) 2022 FORD ESCAPE PLUG-IN HYBRID CARS FOR AN APPROXIMATE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CITY'S VEHICLE FLEET**

**MEETING DATE: JUNE 22, 2022**

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**SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:**

That the City Council authorize the purchase of five (5) 2022 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid SUVs for the replacement of the City's vehicle fleet.

**BACKGROUND:**

In 2018 the City entered into a 36-month lease agreement for six (6) Toyota Prius cars for the City's vehicle fleet needs. This lease term ended in 2021, with the vehicles not being replaced as a result of financial impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic.

After recently reviewing City staff vehicle needs, it was determined that purchasing five (5) cars is necessary to meet the City's current fleet requirements.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### Need for City Vehicle Fleet

The Community Development Department is made up of Planning, Building and Safety and Code Enforcement, with each division conducting regular site visits. Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officers use vehicles daily to conduct inspections and respond to complaints. As stated above, the City's six Toyota Prius vehicles were returned at the end of the lease in 2021, leaving only two vehicles available for daily use by all employees (not including Public Works) at City Hall. As a result, Building Inspectors, Code Enforcement Officers and Planners are required to wait for an available vehicle in order to conduct their daily business in the field, or take their personal vehicles.

The use of personal vehicles to conduct City business results in a number of concerns that warrant a proper City fleet. First and foremost, the use of personal vehicles for City business creates a liability issue and insurance risk for employees in the event they get into an accident or their vehicle is damaged while on City business. Second, most employees are reluctant to use their personal vehicle to meet individuals in the field for personal safety reasons (i.e. having a confrontational contractor recognize their personal car). Conversely, the use of City vehicles to conduct City business results in an official appearance, provides employees with easier access into gated communities, and gives the community/public a sense of City presence. For the reasons stated above, staff reached out to local jurisdictions and found that most, if not all, Building Inspectors and Code Enforcement Officers had their own assigned vehicle to conduct City business. As a result, the purchase of five (5) new vehicles is necessary for the Department to conduct its regular business throughout the City.

### Vehicle Type Consideration

To accommodate staff driving requirements, and to ensure that the City continues to lead on issues related to the environment and sustainability, staff reviewed electric vehicle (EV) cars for fleet replacement options. Unfortunately, due to a combination of timing, logistical, and financial constraints, staff were unable to obtain a feasible EV option for City Council to consider.

In lieu of an EV option, staff is requesting that the City Council consider a plug-in hybrid vehicle. These models can be charged via an electrical outlet or charging station, and utilizes both a gas engine and an electric motor. Such vehicles also provide the ability to operate the car in electric only mode for shorter distances, while also combining with gasoline for excellent combined MPG. In fact, due to the size of the City, most plug-in hybrid vehicles can be driven throughout the City in 100% electric mode with daily charging.

Furthermore, because the fleet will be used during an emergency, staff recommends the plug-in hybrid option to ensure that vehicles are available for use in the event

that the electric grid is not operating and the City cannot charge its vehicles. With most plug-in hybrids offering a combined range of more than 500 miles, they provide superior support in the event of an emergency. It was also determined that an SUV would be optimal for staff due to the higher ground clearance and larger cargo/storage capacity.

After a review of available plug-in hybrid SUV models, staff is recommending that the City Council consider the 2022 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid. This model aligns with the Council's goal of demonstrating climate leadership, while also meeting the fleet requirements of staff. The mileage range and fuel economy for the 2022 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid is as follows:

- Range
  - Electric Motor Only Range: 37 Miles
  - Combined Electric and Gasoline Range: 520 Miles
  
- Fuel Economy
  - Gasoline Engine Only: 40 MPG
  - Electric and Gasoline Combined: 105 MPGe

**FISCAL IMPACT/SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

Staff is requesting \$200,000 in ARPA funding the FY 2022-23 budget for the purchase of 4-5 cars to replace the City's vehicle fleet. The formal adoption of the budget is anticipated to occur June 22, 2022.

**REQUESTED ACTION:**

That the City Council authorize the purchase of five (5) 2022 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid cars for the replacement of the City's vehicle fleet.