

SWEETWATER AUTHORITY

Engineering and Operations Committee

September 3, 2025



Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Purchase Three Replacement Vehicles

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to purchase: one (1) International 10 Yard Dump Truck in the amount of \$264,799.06; one (1) Ford Ranger in the amount of \$38,209.56; and (1) Ford F350 Super Duty truck in the amount of \$70,730.00, for a total combined amount of \$373,738.62; and allocate a contingency in the amount of \$37,400.00 for potential cost increases at the time of vehicle purchases.

OVERVIEW

At its January 8, 2025 meeting, the Board directed staff to perform a Fleet Optimization Study to identify the efficiency and appropriateness of the Authority's 80-vehicle fleet while aligning with California Air Resources Board (CARB) zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) regulations and also the Advanced Clean Fleet Regulations (ACFR). Based on the findings of the Fleet Optimization Study and the Amended Green Fleet Plan adopted by the Board in January, staff is recommending to replace three vehicles.

REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

Following the acceptance of the Fleet Optimization Study, staff will make key changes to start meeting the ZEV Milestone Option under current CARB regulations by January 1, 2027. The table below indicates the new number of vehicle purchases needed to meet CARB deadlines according to ACFR. All Medium and Heavy-Duty (MD/HD) vehicle operations must transition to 100 percent ZEV by 2045. Non-compliance could result in penalties or fines. The Board approved the first vehicle purchase towards these goals in January 2025. The replacement goals outlined in the following table represent the new goals according to the Fleet Optimization Study.

Year	10%	25%	50%	75%	100%	Total
2027	4					4
2030		4				8
2033			10			18
2036				9		27
2039					9	36

Findings during the Fleet Study also indicated there is room for operational and efficiency improvements. At this time, staff recommends replacing three vehicles to start making those improvements. Staff reached out to National Auto Fleet Group and Chula Vista Ford for pricing on the Ranger and F350 Super Duty. Chula Vista Ford came in with the lowest cost for both Ford Vehicles. Westrux provided the Sourcewell quote for a 10-yard dump truck.

Unit 09-69: Replacing the existing 5-yard dump truck with a 10-yard model will significantly enhance operational efficiency. The current vehicle, which was initially acquired with an underpowered engine, and no longer meets the Authority's performance needs. It struggles to safely and efficiently tow a trailer loaded with equipment, limiting productivity and posing potential safety concerns. Upgrading to a 10-yard truck with appropriate power specifications will ensure safer operation, reduce transport time, and better align with the Authority's growing demands. Although the 10-yard truck has a roughly \$70,000 higher upfront cost, its increased hauling capacity reduces the number of trips, saving time and fuel. Over the vehicle's lifespan, these operational efficiencies are expected to offset the initial investment and improve productivity, particularly during large-scale or repetitive hauling tasks.

Unit 13-26: While the F-250s provide ample storage, its size and fuel consumption are excessive for the residential areas where much of this work takes place. A transition to Ford Rangers is recommended. These more compact and fuel-efficient vehicles offer sufficient storage space and improved maneuverability in tight neighborhood settings, while still accommodating the necessary equipment. This change would help reduce operational costs and environmental impact without compromising service capability.

Unit 06-24: Due to increasing responsibilities for fleet management staff, it is recommended that the current vehicle be replaced with a Ford F-350 Super Duty 4x4. The increased towing capacity of this model is essential, as fleet staff will now assume responsibility for the maintenance and repair of all portable generators within the service area. The current truck lacks the capability to safely and efficiently transport these generators. Additionally, the existing vehicle's lack of four-wheel drive has caused recurring issues when retrieving boats from the Loveland Reservoir, further illustrating the need for a more capable replacement. The utility bed currently installed on the truck remains in serviceable condition and can be transferred to the new vehicle. This will result in an estimated cost savings of approximately \$21,500 for the Authority.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY 2025-26 Budget allocation for the Capital Investment Vehicle Replacement Program Project is \$532,000; this amount was transferred to the Vehicle Replacement Fund.

Vehicle Replacement Program	
Vehicle Replacement Fund balance ⁽¹⁾	\$1,732,863.32
FY 2025-26 Budget allocation	532,000.00
Less encumbered allocation for vehicles on order	<380,776.12>
Available Vehicle Replacement Fund balance	\$1,884,087.20
Less proposed vehicle purchases	<373,738.62>
Less 10% contingency	<37,400.00>
Fund balance after proposed purchases	\$1,472,948.58
(1) Balance as reported on the June 30, 2025 Treasurer's Report.	

The following are the individual fiscal impacts for the proposed vehicles purchases:

1. 09-69 5 Yard Dump Truck Diesel: Based on the attached quote from Westrux (Attachment 3), the total cost to upgrade to a 10-yard dump truck is \$264,799.06.
2. 13-26 Ford F250 Utility Bed: Vehicle scheduled to be replaced with a Ford Ranger. Based on the attached quote from National Auto Fleet (Attachment 4), the total cost for the truck is \$38,209.56.
3. 06-24 Ford F350 Utility: Vehicle scheduled to be replaced with a Ford F350 Super Duty. Based on the attached quote from Chula Vista Ford (Attachment 5), the total cost for the truck is \$70,730.00.

OPTIONS

1. Staff recommends that the Governing Board authorize the General Manager to purchase: one (1) International 10-Yard Dump Truck in the amount of \$264,799.06; one (1) Ford Ranger in the amount of \$38,209.56; and (1) Ford F350 Super Duty truck in the amount of \$70,730.00, for a total combined amount of \$373,738.62; and allocate a contingency in the amount of \$37,400.00 for potential cost increases at the time of vehicle purchases.
2. Other direction as determined by the Governing Board.

Staff Contact:

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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Attachments

Attachment 1-Amended Green Fleet Replacement Schedule
Attachment 2-10-Yard Dump Truck Quote-Westrux
Attachment 3-Ford Ranger Quote-Chula Vista Ford
Attachment 4-Ford F350 Super Duty Quote-Chula Vista Ford
Attachment 5-Staff's Presentation

Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan Goal 2: System and Water Supply Reliability (SR) – Achieve an uninterrupted, long-term water supply through investment, maintenance, innovation and developing local water resources.

- Objective SR4: Optimize fleet of vehicles and equipment to provide maximum reliability, cost-effectiveness, minimize carbon footprint, and for compliance with regulatory milestones, by implementing the Fleet Optimization Study and revised Green Fleet Plan
 - Task 3: Replace Vehicles in accordance with recommendations from Fleet Optimization Study and revised Green Fleet Plan.

Past Board Actions

June 11, 2025	The Governing Board adopted Resolution 25-04, Approving the FY 2025-26 Budget.
January 8, 2025	Consideration to Authorize the General Manager to Amend the Green Fleet Plan Replacement Schedule, Perform a Fleet Optimization Study, and Purchase Three Replacement Vehicles The Governing Board authorized the General Manager to: a) Amend the Green Fleet Plan Replacement Schedule to better align with mandates from the California Air Resources Control Board; b) Direct staff to prepare and issue a Request for Proposals to perform a Fleet Optimization Study; c) Approve the purchase of three replacement vehicles from Chula Vista Ford for a not-to-exceed amount of \$131,845.44; and d) Allocate a contingency in the amount of \$13,200 for potential cost increases at the time of vehicle purchases.