



SAN JOSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

TRAINING BULLETIN

TO: ALL DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

FROM: Paul Joseph
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: JUNK VEHICLES

DATE: December 27, 2024

Bulletin #2024-020

Currently, the tow companies contracted with the City are not towing oversized vehicles that may be abandoned and require dismantling. This is primarily due to the costs associated with recycling these vehicles. The Department is collaborating with the City Manager's Office to work through the contract implementation issues regarding the dismantling and recycling of oversized vehicles determined to be *nonrevivable junk vehicles*.

The [CA DMV's Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual chapter 19](#) outlines the guidelines for salvage, nonrepairable, and junk vehicles. According to section 19.015, a *nonrevivable junk vehicle* is defined as a vehicle valued at \$500 or less that has been abandoned, with its removal and disposal authorized by a peace officer or designated public agency employee. To qualify as *abandoned*, the vehicle must be stored at a tow yard for a minimum of 10 days (section 19.025). The valuation of \$500 or less is based on the total value of the vehicle and its salvageable parts.

The training necessary to determine a vehicle's value is provided by the CHP as part of broader courses, such as Auto Theft School. Currently, only Department members who have attended these trainings are qualified to assess and certify a vehicle's value as less than \$500. Therefore, **unless a Department member has completed the appropriate CHP training, they are not authorized to certify a *nonrevivable junk vehicle*.**

To establish a process for identifying nonrevivable junk vehicles, the Tow Hearing Officer [REDACTED] will be responsible for certifying a vehicle's value. Any inquiries from tow drivers or tow yards regarding the "junking" of a vehicle should be directed to the Tow Hearing Officer.

The Department anticipates that the budget allocation and contract amendments with the tow companies will be finalized in the near future. Once completed, the tow companies will resume towing oversized vehicles that may be abandoned and require dismantling.

Handwritten signature of Paul Joseph in black ink.

Paul Joseph
Chief of Police

PJ:PH:SD