



CLEARLAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT

14050 Olympic Drive, Clearlake, CA 95422

Andrew White | Chief of Police

OPTIONS FOR ABATING ABANDONED VEHICLES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Abandoned vehicles on private property become the responsibility of the property owner to have removed. Tow services will generally only tow vehicles for the REGISTERED OWNERS who can provide proper DMV documentation of ownership. Salvage yards also require this documentation before receiving vehicles.

There are two options to choose from:

1. **Code Enforcement can tow the vehicle(s)** at the request of the property owner. The tow charge for doing so will need to be pre-authorized to the City. Fees are:
 - a. \$250.00 per standard passenger vehicle or pickup. This price includes up to one (1) cubic yard of garbage inside the vehicle.
 - b. Garbage in excess of 1 cubic yard in a vehicle will be charged at \$40.00 per cubic yard.
 - c. Difficult retrieval due to access challenges may also be charged at \$250.00 per hour if deemed necessary (steep terrain, blockage, etc).

How it works:

- d. Authorize Code Enforcement to proceed with the tow process by signing an Authorization to Tow Vehicle(s) form. You will need to request the form from Code Enforcement.
 - e. We will tag the vehicle(s) and wait the required 10 days to give the registered owner(s) an opportunity to move the vehicle(s).
 - f. After the 10-day period any vehicles remaining will be scheduled for tow. We will then invoice you only for the vehicles towed.
 - g. RVs, trailers, vessels, etc. are not currently under contract for City towing. See Option #2.
2. **DMV Lien Sale Transfer:** The property owner can transfer the title to the vehicle(s) into their name. Place a 30-day notice of abandonment on each vehicle. The notice should contain the date, the location, a description of the vehicle, and a notice "To the Registered Owner" that the vehicle is deemed abandoned without permission at the stated location, and after 30 days it will be disposed of. Post the notice on each vehicle, take a picture of it, and keep a copy of the notice for your records. You should also provide a copy to Code Enforcement for entry into your case. After 30 days, take the notice(s) to DMV and request a Lien/Sale Transfer. You will become the legal owner with the right to tow, sell, or dismantle the vehicle(s). You can then choose your own tow or salvage service to have the vehicle(s) removed.

It is our goal to work with you toward successful resolution of your Code Enforcement case. Please be sure to communicate your choice for abatement so that you can stay within the compliance deadlines. We may be able to grant an extension of time when we know that the property owner is actively pursuing solutions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call us at 707-994-8251 x 309, or email to jbreja@clearlakepd.org

