

# City of Vacaville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, December 26, 2007**  
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## **CITY GETS CALTRANS APPROVAL FOR USE OF TILLER TRUCK**

The City of Vacaville has received a letter of exemption from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) allowing the use of the tractor-drawn fire apparatus/truck, also known as the tiller truck.

The truck was purchased by the City in December 2006, at a cost of \$750,000. With an aerial capability of over 100 feet, it is ideal for building rescues, but can also be used in a variety of situations common in cities such as Vacaville.

"We were confident that Caltrans would give us this exemption" said Vacaville Fire Chief Brian Preciado. "There was never a question in our minds that our truck was perfectly safe. Both the California Highway Patrol and Caltrans confirmed that our truck was safe to operate."

The exemption letter, signed by James R. Anderson, Chief, Office of Truck Services for Caltrans, states: "...the Department finds "Good Cause" to permit this vehicle to operate as configured in the submittal dated December 17, 2007."

Following receipt of the letter from Caltrans, Vacaville Division Chief Frank Drayton drove to Sacramento, applied for and received a permit for the vehicle. The truck can now be used throughout the city of Vacaville and the state of California.

Delays over permitting the truck arose when it was discovered that there were no adequate descriptions in current California code into which the truck fit, thereby delaying the issuance of the permit. As a result, an individual exemption had to be made for the truck. The exemption is good until Dec. 20, 2008.

"Our next step, via a committee representing the California Fire Service, is to have the law changed," Preciado said.

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