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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
PRESS RELEASE**

For More Information: Call 530-757-5602

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City to Auction Surplus Battery Powered GEM Cars

Beginning Monday, March 10, the city of Davis will list two of its well-known battery powered GEM cars for sale to the public on the web site: www.publicsurplus.com. The cars will be listed for two weeks when two more GEM cars will be posted for sale on March 24. The GEM auctions will continue until nine surplus vehicles have been disposed of.

Funds from the sale of the surplus vehicles will be used by the city for sustainability programs to purchase newer low emission vehicles for the city's fleet.

The two and four seat vehicles have been plying the streets of Davis since 2002 when the Daimler-Chrysler automobile company donated twenty-five cars to the City through a special program with the states of California, Florida and New York. The National Parks Service donated the two remaining cars in the fleet. The acronym GEM stands for Global Electric Motorcars. The GEM cars have become a favorite mode of transportation for some city councilmembers, city staff and even some local businesses. The cars have performed a myriad of duties, from park maintenance to parades to tours for visiting sister city delegations.

From 2003 to 2005, Davis citizens could sign up to borrow a city GEM car for free to drive it around town for a week. Borrowers had to attend a training class and provide insurance coverage. The GEM car loan program was discontinued when maintenance of the vehicles became too costly and time-consuming.

The Public Surplus web site is free and viewers can see what the city of Davis has for sale by clicking on "Select Region" under "Browse auctions within area". After choosing "California" as the region, you then choose "City of Davis" under "Select Agency". All of the city's auction items will be listed along with their minimum bid and when the bidding closes for each item.

The GEM cars will be sold “as is” and can be viewed by appointment at the city’s Parks & Community Services corporation yard at 1818 Fifth Street. Appointments can be made by calling Fleet Manager Dan Doolan at (530) 681-7928. Successful bidders will be responsible for picking up and transporting the GEM cars.

The first two GEM cars to be sold will be G-7 a two passenger vehicle with 3,474 miles and G-21 a four passenger vehicle with only 921 miles. Minimum bids for 2 seaters begin at \$1,700 and for 4 seaters at 2,100. GEM cars with batteries that need replacing will be listed for even less. Dealer prices for new GEM cars are over \$10,000 for 2 seaters and over \$12,000 for 4 seaters.

For more information, contact Dan Doolan or the City Manager’s office at (530) 757-5602.

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