

California puts on a garage sale to raise funds

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(08-25) 15:29 PDT Sacramento -- Most weekend garage sales don't offer over 500 used vehicles - but then again, most garage sales aren't put on by the state of California.

State officials on Tuesday kicked off what has been dubbed "The Great California Garage Sale" - by posting surplus state property on eBay and Craigslist.

The internet sales will be accompanied by a warehouse sale in Sacramento on Thursday and Friday at the California Department of General Service's Surplus Property Warehouse.

Among the 20 items listed on eBay (seller: great-ca-garage-sale) are 15 vehicles autographed by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Rather than sign identical vehicles, the governor signed a variety of 12 different car models.

"We thought it would be a good range of vehicles," said State and Consumer Services Agency Deputy Communications Director Erin Shaw. As of Tuesday afternoon, a white 2003 Honda Civic Hybrid had the highest bid at \$5,500 while a green 1997 Ford Taurus brought up the rear at just \$560 of bidding.

Other items available on eBay include a FoodSaver food packaging system and four items of jewelry. Listings on Craigslist include coat racks, desks, chairs and several computers. Two laptops and three desktop computers are all currently listed at \$200 and will be sold without an operating system.

Items available at the warehouse will include surplus office equipment in addition to confiscated items such as a surfboard and an antique piano. Many of the motor vehicles being sold by the state were marked as surplus as a result of Schwarzenegger's Executive Order in July to reduce the state fleet by 15 percent.

"The Department of General Services holds a vehicle auction every few months," said Shaw. "Some of those vehicles that would have been a part of the summer auction were incorporated [into the garage sale] because of the large influx of vehicles."

The state previously held such a sale in 2004 which netted approximately \$35,000 and did not include a vehicle auction. Organizers expect this weekend's sale to be more lucrative.

"We anticipate earning a few hundred thousand dollars and any net proceeds will go back to the General Fund," Shaw said.

The sale is located at 1700 National Drive in Sacramento from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday and 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday.

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