5-01/030.05 - Verification of Ownership

Whenever possible, deputies shall obtain the necessary vehicle information from the owner's certificate (pink slip), vehicle registration card or auto insurance papers. The vehicle registration information shall also be verified through DMV and so noted on the CHP-180.

- In the case of California license numbers, verify the license number and the VIN through DMV; or
- In the case of out of state license numbers, request verification via CLETS by use of the USDMV format, or by sending an administrative message to the State Motor Vehicle Office of the state where the vehicle is registered. This message shall contain a description of the vehicle, including the license number and VIN, requesting verification of the registered owner. A telephone call may be placed in lieu of the administrative message, if authorized by the watch commander.