

RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAMS

The Transportation Department often receives requests to implement a residential parking permit program throughout the public streets of the unincorporated area. This brochure attempts to explain some of the issues of residential parking permit programs and why we don't generally endorse such requests.

Residential or preferred parking permit programs aim to allocate scarce on-street parking spaces to residents of an impacted street over non-residents. The experience of other areas shows, however, that extensive residential parking permit programs more often than not provide a solution that may be worse than the problem.

Residential parking permit programs fail to be effective for three basic reasons:

1. Prohibitive cost of administering and enforcing parking programs;
2. General scarcity of parking space on public streets, and
3. Inability to meet the parking needs of residents, area businesses, and visitors alike.

IT IS COSTLY TO ADMINISTER AND ENFORCE RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMIT PROGRAMS

Residential parking permit programs are administratively expensive. It requires personnel to obtain, sell, and track parking permit stickers as well as initiate and run regular permit renewals.

Effective enforcement is also expensive. Sworn personnel must be available daily to enforce the program and issue citations, and in the unincorporated area, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) provides vehicle code enforcement.

CHP's priority for enforcement is related to safety or operational concerns, and parking enforcement is by necessity a lower priority.

The modest cost to participants for the purchase of residential parking permits is not sufficient to cover the costs of enforcement or administration.

PARKING SPACE ON PUBLIC STREETS IS SCARCE FOR EVERYONE

Some residential developments were built when residents didn't own personal vehicles. Even newer homes frequently lack adequate

parking space for the number of cars residents own, and garages are often not used to house automobiles. The end result is that, even under the best of conditions, parking space is often at a premium. Public streets, whose upkeep is paid for by taxpayers, are intended for general public use and are not personal property. Residents in restricted parking areas should be aware that the parking restrictions apply to themselves and their visitors.



NO SOLUTION CAN MEET EVERYONE'S PARKING NEEDS

Experience in other areas has shown that attempts to regulate parking demand create high levels of dissatisfaction among several groups affected by the parking restrictions: residents, the nearby business community, and visitors to both.

Preferred parking creates limitations that can't meet residents' needs for their own cars as well as visitors.

RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS

HOW CLOSE TO THE CURB MUST I BE TO PARK LEGALLY?

All vehicles parking parallel to the curb must park within 18 inches. All vehicles parking at an angle must have one front tire within 6 inches of the curb.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF TIME I CAN PARK MY VEHICLE ON THE STREET WITHOUT MOVING IT?

Vehicles cannot be parked or stored on a public street for long periods of time. Storage of a vehicle is considered to be a vehicle in excess of 72 hours without being moved at least two tenths of a mile. Vehicles stored longer than 72 hours are subject to being towed.

HOW FAR IN THE RED CURB MUST I BE TO GET A TICKET?

No portion of a vehicle including the bumper may extend into the restricted area (even one inch is considered a violation). This also applies to parked vehicles encroaching into driveways, sidewalks, and crosswalks.

HOW LONG DO I HAVE TO CONTEST A PARKING CITATION?

Anyone wishing to contest parking citations must contact the court system within 21 days or the right to contest the citation is lost.

WHO DO I CALL TO HAVE AN ABANDONED VEHICLE REMOVED?

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for enforcing traffic laws on roads in the unincorporated area. If you have a question about enforcement, please contact the CHP Dispatcher at: **(805) 477- 4100**.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

If you have questions, requests, or suggestions, please call Department at: or through the "Contact Us" link at: