

Capitola City Council

Agenda Report

Meeting: January 13, 2022

From: Police Department

Subject: Presentation Regarding Proposed City of Santa Cruz Onstreet Parking Programs



Recommended Action: Receive a report regarding how the City of Santa Cruz is addressing oversized vehicles and an update on City of Capitola practices.

Background: Santa Cruz County continues to experience an increasing number of oversized vehicles parking for long periods of time on public streets. According to City of Santa Cruz staff reports, this trend is impacting the community, public safety, health, and the environment. During the November 10, 2021 Capitola City Council meeting, staff was directed to provide an overview of the most oversized vehicle parking programs introduced by the City of Santa Cruz. Additionally, staff was directed to provide an overview of our current practices.

Discussion: Balancing the preservation of public safety and health while trying to support a vulnerable population is a challenge facing most jurisdictions. Communities in Santa Cruz County are no different. The purpose of this report is to outline what steps are being considered in the City of Santa Cruz to manage oversized vehicles and the impacts on neighborhoods. The City of Santa Cruz has proposed a "City-Wide Parking Permit" program for oversized vehicles and a three-tiered "Safe Parking" program to assist individuals with transitional housing needs.

In 2015/2016, the City of Santa Cruz proposed an Oversize Vehicle Ordinance (OVO); implementing this ordinance required a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The CDP was approved by the City of Santa Cruz Zoning Administrator, but then appealed to the Coastal Commission. The Commission reviewed the permit and found "substantial issue" concerning the ordinances' consistency with Coastal Act policies. The Coastal Commission did not take action to approve or deny the permit. Because the permit was appealed, and no action was taken at the Coastal Commission, the proposed ordinance stalled and did not move forward.

In September 2021, Santa Cruz City Council created a subcommittee that included a broad list of stakeholders, local representatives, and members of the City Council. The committee proposed the City-Wide Parking Permit program for oversized vehicles and the Safe Parking program for transitional housing.

On October 26, 2021, Santa Cruz City Council held the first reading of Ordinance No. 2021-21, amending the current ordinance and introducing a new City-Wide Parking Permit program for oversized vehicles. Santa Cruz City Council also directed staff to implement a city-operated safe parking program.

The City-Wide Permit program ordinance amendment and policy were developed to provide parameters on the time, place, and manner of parking oversized vehicles on city streets. The goal was to address environmental and public health impacts. The proposed language defines an oversized vehicle as greater than or equal to 20 feet in length, or greater than eight feet in height and seven feet in width. While there are some exceptions for pull trailers and commercial trailers, the proposed ordinance would prohibit oversized vehicles from parking on city streets between the hours of midnight to 5:00 AM; prohibit utility connections; prohibit open fires, prohibit unsafe and unsanitary conditions; and prohibit oversized vehicles from parking within 100 feet of an intersection.

Allowances include resident/visitor permits that are valid for one year. The permit holder can use the permit for four periods of 72-hours per month. If a resident has an out-of-town visitor, a permit can be issued for six periods of 72 hours use per year.

Another exception is participation in a city-operated or sponsored safe parking program. The City will operate, sponsor, or authorize safe parking programs for oversized vehicles on City-owned or leased properties or on city-sanctioned private properties. Site locations would include hygiene stations and information and options for sanitation and black water dumping.

The safe parking framework will take a three-tiered approach:

- 1) Emergency Safe Parking spaces – A minimum of three emergency safe parking spaces will be provided immediately. Available for up to 72-hours and are designed to assist with registration and repairs.
- 2) Safe Overnight Parking – City staff will identify safe parking spaces for thirty oversized vehicles and supply overnight monitoring with hygiene units. Resources for transitional sheltering options will be provided at this location.
- 3) Safe Parking Program – City staff will work closely with County partners from the Human Services and Health departments to expand existing programs and will include case management support to assist individuals. Families with children, seniors, transition-aged youth, veterans, and individuals with disabilities are prioritized. \$300-500K for a robust safe parking program and this price does not include ongoing costs of hygiene units.

To implement the proposed ordinance, the City of Santa Cruz will need to process a Coastal Development Permit (CDP). The original appeal is still pending and since the 2016 decision, the Coastal Commission has allowed similar ordinances in other coastal cities. Within the City of Santa Cruz, any modification to permit parking within the Coastal Zone requires approval of a Coastal Development Permit, which can be appealed to the California Coastal Commission. In Capitola, an amendment to Municipal Code Section 10.36 (Stopping, Standing, and Parking), requires an ordinance amendment and certification by the Coastal Commission, since that section of code is within the City's Local Coastal Program Implementation Plan.

Some of the issues facing the City of Santa Cruz are also impacting Capitola. The Capitola Police Department has received some complaints from residents about oversized vehicles and their impacts on respective neighborhoods. The police department is committed to seeking the balance between the community's concerns and this vulnerable population. We have collected the necessary data and continue to utilize our local municipal code and the California Vehicle Code (CVC) to address vehicles on public streets. The police department works closely with property owners to address unwanted behavior in their parking lots by allowing law enforcement to exercise trespassing law under certain provisions. This program allows for property owners to work with the police department to post the property location and allow officers to enforce local regulations on their behalf. The police department will continue to monitor these issues and will work with residents and neighborhoods to address specific concerns.

Financial Impact: None.

Report Prepared By: Andrew Dally, Chief of Police

Reviewed By: Chloé Woodmansee, City Clerk

Approved By: Jamie Goldstein, City Manager