



STAFF REPORT

August 7, 2024
File Number 1060-05

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF AN ORDINANCE REGULATING RECREATIONAL VEHICLE PARKING

DEPARTMENT

City Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Request the City Council adopt Ordinance No. 2024-10 amending Escondido Municipal Code section 28-142 to regulate recreational vehicle ("RV") parking.

Staff Recommendation: Approval (City Manager: Christopher McKinney, Deputy City Manager)

Presenter: Christopher McKinney, Deputy City Manager, and Ed Varso, Chief of Police

ESSENTIAL SERVICE –Yes, Keep City Clean for Public Health and Safety; Clean Water

COUNCIL PRIORITY –Improve Public Safety; Increase Retention and Attraction of People and Businesses to Escondido

FISCAL ANALYSIS

If Ordinance No. 2024-10 is adopted by the City Council, signs will be installed on all road entrances into the City of Escondido ("City"). These signs will give the required statutory notice necessary to enforce the RV parking regulations under State law. Procurement and installation of the signs is estimated to cost \$15,000. The Police Department Operating Budget requires no changes in staffing or overall expenditure to enforce the proposed RV parking regulations.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The City Council adopted Chapter 28 of the Escondido Municipal Code ("EMC") in 1972.

On March 8, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance No. 2017-04 amending EMC section 28-142.

On November 16, 2022, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-176, delegating authority to the City Manager to study, establish and post parking regulations and signage at all municipally owned parking lots.



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On January 11, 2023, the City Council considered Ordinance No. 2023-02, but took no action other than providing feedback to staff regarding requested changes to language around time limits for parking near the address to which a particular RV is registered.

BACKGROUND

City staff regularly receive complaints regarding long term RV parking on City streets and property, including complaints about trash and debris left by RV owners, and liquid waste under or near RVs.

RVs parked for extended periods on City streets and property can have negative effects on traffic safety and quality of life in the communities around them. **Traffic safety impacts** of parked RVs include: (1) impaired driver visibility of pedestrians, bicyclist, and other motor vehicles, especially when RVs are parked near intersections or on curves; and (2) impaired driveway access on more narrow residential streets. **Quality of life impacts** of parked RVs include: (1) reduced parking for other vehicles for residents and business customers; (2) trash or litter left by owners after long-term parking; and (3) the potential for illegal discharge of wastewater onto streets or into the storm water system.

California Vehicle Code section 22507 authorizes local authorities to restrict parking times and locations of certain vehicles, including designating certain streets on which preferential parking privileges are given to residents living on those streets.

The cities of Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Encinitas, Imperial Beach, National City, Oceanside, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee Solana Beach and Vista have parking regulations prohibiting or restricting the parking of RVs, oversized vehicles and/or trailers on public streets.

Regulating the parking of RVs by limiting the time periods and locations of allowed parking on city streets will likely benefit the health and safety of the surrounding community. The aforementioned negative traffic safety and quality of life impacts would be mitigated, including prevention of illegal wastewater discharge, reduction of street litter, enhanced driver visibility of other vehicles and pedestrians, and generally improved access.

Attachment "1" reflects the changes to the City's existing parking ordinances. The proposed ordinance would impose citywide restrictions on RV parking on highways, streets, alleys, public ways, public places, and City parking lots with certain specified exceptions including:

1. Allowed parking within 100 yards of the registered address of the RV for the purpose of loading and unloading for up to 24 hours before and 24 hours after a trip, but for no more than 24 hours in one instance. The registered address is the address listed on the Department of Motor Vehicle registration. State law requires vehicle owners to update the vehicle registration address within ten days of a move;
2. Allowed emergency parking or for the purpose of emergency repairs, as long as the vehicle can be readily repaired and moved;



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3. Allowed parking in municipal parking lots with posted signs authorizing RV parking;
4. Allowed parking for RVs belonging to a federal, state, or local agency;
5. Allowed parking during a proclaimed City emergency at the discretion of the Director of Emergency Services; and
6. When the City issues a special event permit authorizing RV parking in designated areas of the City.

The ordinance authorizes the police department to tow and impound an RV after a single violation. A violation of the ordinance is an infraction.

RV Parking Options

The EMC currently allows RV parking on residential private property (EMC § 33-550 *et seq.*) and in travel trailer parks (EMC § 33-890 *et seq.*) such as the Escondido RV Resort. RV parking is also available at Dixon Lake Campground, and multiple other travel trailer parks throughout the County of San Diego. Moreover, allowing for City parking lots to be posted as exempt from the prohibition provides the ability to create additional alternate parking as needed, at the discretion of the City Manager by the authority granted by the City Council.

Implementation

The Escondido Police Department will enforce this ordinance in a fair and equitable manner. When appropriate, for example during the initial implementation, officers will emphasize education or use their discretion to issue a warning. Additionally, the City's RV restrictions will not apply until the City places signs at all road entrances to the City.

To make it clear that the restrictions apply to all city streets, Escondido's sign content will read:

NO PARKING
ANY RECREATIONAL VEHICLES
ON ALL CITY STREETS & CITY PARKING LOTS
UNLESS POSTED SIGNS AUTHORIZE PARKING
VIOLATORS SUBJECT TO CITATION AND/OR
TOWING AT OWNER'S EXPENSE
EMC 28-142

If the City Council adopts Ordinance No. 2024-10, staff will order the signs and materials, and obtain Caltrans' right-of-way permits as needed. Installation of approximately 58 signs will take about six weeks. Staff will conduct community outreach in both English and Spanish by providing notice of the new RV parking regulations through the City's websites and social media accounts, the City Manager's Weekly Activity Report and news releases. Staff expects enforcement of the ordinance will begin after November 1, 2024.



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ORDINANCES

- a. Ordinance No. 2024-10 (First Reading and Introduction)

ATTACHMENTS

- a. Attachment "1" - Ordinance No. 2024-10 Strike Out Version