



City of Needles, California

Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA

Regular Special

Meeting Date: April 14, 2026

Title: Ordinance No. 680-AC Amending Chapter 13, Article IV of the Needles Municipal Code to Prohibit Commercial Trucks Over 26,000 Pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) from Parking on Residential Streets and in City Parks

Background: This item recommends adoption of Ordinance No. 680-AC amending Chapter 13, Article IV (Use of Certain Streets by Commercial Vehicles Prohibited) of the Needles Municipal Code to prohibit commercial trucks over 26,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) from parking on residential streets and within City parks.

At the April 12, 2026 City Council meeting, Council provided direction to staff to focus the ordinance on restricting the parking of large commercial vehicles, including semi-trucks and other heavy-duty trucks, within residential neighborhoods. Staff has expanded this approach to also address impacts within City parks, where similar concerns related to safety, access, and facility use have been identified.

On February 28, 2023, the City Council adopted the Land Use & Transportation Element, which established a framework for identifying a truck network to support industrial and commercial growth while minimizing impacts to residential areas and sensitive receptors. The Transportation Element recommends limiting heavy truck impacts in residential areas and community-serving spaces.

On November 18, 2025, the City Council requested that staff evaluate options to reduce heavy truck impacts in residential areas and near schools.

The proposed ordinance, prepared in consultation with the City Attorney and consistent with applicable provisions of the California Vehicle Code, establishes the following:

Parking Restrictions

- Prohibits commercial trucks over 26,000 pounds GVWR from parking on residential streets
- Prohibits commercial trucks over 26,000 pounds GVWR from parking within City parks
- Focuses enforcement on stationary vehicles rather than restricting roadway access
- Targets large commercial vehicles, including semi-trucks and similar heavy-duty vehicles

Exemptions

- Allows temporary parking for active loading and unloading
- Allows access for deliveries, utilities, emergency vehicles, solid waste services, and municipal operations
- Provides flexibility for necessary short-term operational needs

Implementation

- Requires installation of appropriate regulatory signage prior to enforcement
- Authorizes administrative citation enforcement for violations
- Establishes clear and enforceable standards for compliance

Purpose and Benefits

The ordinance is intended to:

- Improve neighborhood livability and safety
- Protect public parks and recreational spaces from incompatible vehicle use
- Reduce noise, congestion, and visual impacts in residential and community areas
- Minimize roadway and park infrastructure damage caused by heavy vehicles
- Align with adopted transportation policies while supporting economic activity on appropriate routes

This approach balances the need to support commercial and industrial activity while protecting residential neighborhoods and public spaces from the impacts of long-term parking of heavy commercial vehicles.

Fiscal Impact: Costs associated with installation of regulatory signage and enforcement. Costs are expected to be minimal and can be accommodated within existing departmental budgets.

Recommendation: Adopt Ordinance 680-AC of the City Council of the City of Needles California, Amending Chapter 13, Article IV of the Needles Municipal Code to Prohibit Commercial Trucks Over 26,000 Pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) from Parking on Residential Streets and in City Parks

Submitted By: Kathy Raasch, Director of Development Services/Capital Projects
Lena Wade, Esq., Deputy City Attorney

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 4/24/26

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____