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cityofriodell.ca.gov*



November 4, 2025

TO: Rio Dell City Council

FROM: Kyle Knopp, City Manager

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action on the First Reading of Ordinance No. 416-2025 Removing Section 10.05.780, Amending Section 10.05.020, and Amending Section 10.05.790 of the Rio Dell Municipal Code Restricting Parking of Specific Commercial Vehicles on Designated Areas within the City of Rio Dell

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

1. Receive a presentation from staff; and,
2. Open the public hearing, deliberate and provide direction to staff, if any; and,
3. Motion to continue the item to your regularly scheduled meeting of November 18, 2025 for a second public hearing and potential adoption of Ordinance No. 416-2025; or,
4. Take no action.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The issue of commercial truck parking in Rio Dell over general concerns regarding:

- Infrastructure damage: Commercial Freight Vehicles parked on residential streets not designed for such weight may damage underground utilities, including water, sewer or gas pipelines.
- Traffic safety hazards: Large vehicles parked near intersections obstruct sight lines, increasing collision risks for motorists and pedestrians.
- Neighborhood impacts: The presence of oversized commercial vehicles in residential areas creates aesthetic and livability concerns for residents.

Currently, the Rio Dell Municipal Code lacks adequate provisions to address these issues effectively. Section 10.05.780, which is proposed for deletion, does not provide the comprehensive framework needed to balance the legitimate needs of commercial vehicle operators with residential quality of life and public safety.

The proposed ordinance is authorized under California Vehicle Code Section 22507.5 which permits local authorities to regulate parking of commercial vehicles with a manufacturer's gross

vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of 10,000 pounds or more on designated streets or in residential districts. California Vehicle Code Section 22507 also authorizes local regulation of commercial vehicle parking when appropriate signage is erected.

Key Provisions

1. Definitions (Amendment to Section 10.05.020)

The ordinance establishes clear definitions:

- Commercial Freight Vehicle: A motor vehicle designed to transport goods with a GVWR of 14,000 pounds or more.
- Commercial Trailer: Any trailer or semitrailer used for commercial transport, regardless of weight.

Note: The 14,000-pound threshold is higher than the state-authorized 10,000 pounds, providing flexibility for smaller commercial vehicles while addressing the most impactful vehicles.

2. Permit System (New Section 10.05.790)

The ordinance creates a Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit system with the following features:

- Joint approval process: Permits require approval from both the Chief of Police and the City Streets Superintendent, ensuring both public safety and infrastructure considerations are addressed.
- Objective criteria: Permits are evaluated based on traffic safety, potential roadway damage, parking congestion, and compatibility with residential uses.
- No cost to applicants: Permits are issued free of charge.
- One-year validity: Permits are valid for up to one year from issuance.
- Display requirements: Permits must be clearly visible on the vehicle windshield or trailer.

3. Specific Street Restrictions

The ordinance prohibits parking of Commercial Freight Vehicles and commercial trailers on:

- Wildwood Avenue between US Highway 101 and Eagle Prairie Bridge (CA 283) for more than two hours, except for loading/unloading purposes.
- Any additional streets designated by future City Council resolution.

4. Exemptions

The permit requirement does not apply to:

- Vehicles actively making deliveries or pickups
- Vehicles used for construction activity under a valid building permit
- Emergency public utility or service vehicles

5. Enforcement

- Revocation authority: Permits may be revoked immediately for violations, false information, or safety hazards. A 48-hour notice is required for revocations due to remediable safety concerns.
- Grace period: Permitholders have 24 hours to comply after revocation before violations are issued.
- Graduated fines:
 - First violation: \$100
 - Second violation within one year: \$200
 - Third or subsequent violation within one year: \$250
 - Additional fines per California Vehicle Code Section 42030 for weight violations

- Administrative appeal: Permitholders may request a hearing before the City Manager or designee within 10 days of revocation.

6. Permit Transferability

- Permits do not automatically transfer when vehicles are sold.
- Permits may be transferred to different vehicles owned by the permitholder with approval from the Chief of Police and Streets Superintendent.

This ordinance has been reviewed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Staff has determined the ordinance is exempt pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15061(b)(3), the "common sense exemption," as there is no possibility that adoption of this ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment. The ordinance regulates parking of existing vehicles and does not authorize new development or physical changes to the environment.

There will be some minimal staff time for permit processing that is anticipated to be absorbed within existing departmental budgets. Signage installation on Wildwood Avenue and any future restricted streets (estimated \$500-\$1,500) and permit production costs (minimal). Potential fine revenue from violations is an amount that is uncertain, minimal and not recommended as a budgetary consideration. Overall fiscal impact is anticipated to be minimal.

The Council may also consider directing staff to draft a separate agenda item to restrict all parking to no more than two hours on Wildwood Avenue at three locations adjacent to: City Hall, Memorial Park and Blue Star Memorial Park (aka Triangle Park). This would simplify the signage and enforcement of the parking regulations at these locations.

Attachments:

- Draft of Ordinance No. 416-2025

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ORDINANCE NO. 416-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL REMOVING SECTION 10.05.780, AMENDING SECTION 10.05.020, AND AMENDING SECTION 10.05.790 OF THE RIO DELL MUNICIPAL CODE, RESTRICTING PARKING OF SPECIFIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON DESIGNATED AREAS WITHIN THE CITY.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RIO DELL DOES ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

- A. WHEREAS**, existing Rio Dell Municipal Code sections are inadequate to address the issue identified herein; and
- B. WHEREAS**, the parking of Commercial Freight Vehicles within residential areas often creates negative effects on City residents; and
- C. WHEREAS**, parking Commercial Freight Vehicles in residential areas not properly equipped to handle such commercial vehicles may cause infrastructure damage, including damage to water or sewer pipelines; and
- D. WHEREAS**, parking of Commercial Freight Vehicles near intersections within the City of Rio Dell may cause increased risk of vehicle collisions by obstructing vision of such intersections and any other vehicles or pedestrians nearby; and
- E. WHEREAS**, the City of Rio Dell has received multiple complaints from residents regarding parking of Commercial Freight Vehicles within residential areas and the resulting effects as set forth above; and
- F. WHEREAS**, California Vehicle Code, Section 22507.5, authorizes local authorities to regulate, prohibit, or restrict parking of commercial vehicles having a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 pounds or more on designated streets, portions of streets, or residential districts; and

- G. WHEREAS**, California Vehicle Code, Section 22507, authorizes local authorities to regulate, prohibit, or restrict parking, stopping, or standing of commercial vehicles on certain streets or highways by ordinance or resolution, when signs are erected giving notice of such restrictions; and
- H. WHEREAS**, the City has the affirmative duty to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all its citizens and to take their personal safety and infrastructure stability seriously; and
- I. WHEREAS**, this Ordinance has been reviewed for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the CEQA Guidelines, and has been found to be exempt pursuant to Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, on the basis there is no possibility the passage of this Ordinance will have a significant effect on the environment.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell as follows:

1. Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 10.05.780 is hereby deleted in its entirety.
2. Further, the Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 10.05.020 shall be amended to include definitions as follows:

“Commercial Freight Vehicle” means a motor vehicle primarily designed and used to transport goods or cargo for business purposes, which has a manufacturer gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) at or exceeding 14,000 pounds.

“Commercial Trailer” means a trailer or semitrailer primarily designed or used for the transport of goods, cargo, or equipment in commerce, regardless of weight rating.
3. Further, the existing text of Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 10.05.790 is hereby deemed deleted and Section 10.05.790 shall be amended and renamed to read, in its entirety, as follows:

10.05.790 Large Commercial Vehicle Parking on Public Streets/Restrictions

- (1) No person except as set forth in subsection (5), below, shall park or leave standing any Commercial Freight Vehicle or commercial trailer on any public street or public property within residential districts within City limits without a valid Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit, issued jointly by the Chief of Police and the City of Rio Dell Streets Superintendent pursuant to subsection (3), below.
- (2) No person except as set forth in subsection (5), with or without a valid Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit, shall park or leave standing any Commercial Freight Vehicle or commercial trailer on the following streets within the City:
 - (a) Pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 22507, the City Council hereby restricts the parking of commercial freight vehicles and commercial trailers on Wildwood Avenue

between United States Highway 101 (US101) and the Eagle Prairie Bridge (CA 283) shall be no more than two hours, except for the purposes of loading or unloading. ;

(b) Any other streets later designated by duly adopted resolution of the City Council.

(3) Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permits may be issued on a City-provided application form after joint review and discretionary approval by both the City of Rio Dell Chief of Police and the City Streets Superintendent, or by other persons as designated by resolution duly adopted by the City Council, based upon objective criteria including traffic safety, potential roadway damage, parking congestion, and compatibility with adjacent residential uses. The permit, if approved and issued, shall specify approved parking locations and timeframes, and shall be issued at no cost to the applicant, and shall be valid for up to one (1) year from the date of issuance.

(4) To be valid, Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permits must be displayed and clearly visible in the lower right-hand corner of the permitted vehicle's windshield at all times when parked. In the case of commercial trailers, the permit must be displayed and clearly visible in a conspicuous location at or near the front of the trailer. Unless otherwise stated in the particular permit, a parked commercial trailer is not covered by a Commercial Freight Vehicle's Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit.

(5) The permit requirement of this section shall not apply to:

(a) Vehicles actively making deliveries or pickups from addresses located in the restricted areas;

(b) Vehicles used for construction activity authorized under a valid City building permit;

(c) Emergency public utility or service vehicles.

(6) Permits may be revoked at any time by the Chief of Police or the City Streets Superintendent if:

(a) The permittee violates any condition of this Section 10.05.790 or other sections of the Rio Dell Municipal Code or the California Vehicle Code;

(b) The applicant provided false or misleading information; and

(c) Use of the permit in a manner that creates an immediate and documented safety hazard or public nuisance which cannot be reasonably alleviated.

(7) Permits may be revoked after forty-eight (48) hour oral or written notice, addressed to the permitholder by the Chief of Police or the City Streets Superintendent if:

(a) Continued use of the permit creates a safety hazard or nuisance which can be reasonably alleviated but the permitholder does not sufficiently alleviate such safety hazard or nuisance.

(8) In the event of permit revocation, the permitholder shall have a twenty-four (24) hour grace period to relocate all offending Commercial Freight Vehicles or commercial trailers and to otherwise comply with this Section before any violations may be incurred.

(9) Violations of this section shall be punishable as infractions, subject to the following fines:

(a) First violation: a fine equal to \$100.00.

(b) Second violation within one year: a fine equal to \$200.00.

(c) Third or subsequent violation within one year: a fine equal to \$250.00.

(d) In addition to the violation fines set forth above, vehicles violating State of California Vehicle Code weight restrictions will be fined in accordance with California Vehicle Code section 42030 and related laws and/or regulations.

(10) Any Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit issued pursuant to this Section 10.05.790 shall entitle the permit applicant and holder to park the designated Commercial Freight Vehicle or commercial trailer in accordance with the permit terms and conditions, and the permit shall not transfer to buyers or transferees of the permitted vehicle(s). Any buyers and/or transferees must apply for and obtain their own Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit to continue parking in the manner approved for the prior permitholder.

(11) Any Large Commercial Vehicle Parking Permit issued pursuant to this section 10.05.790 shall entitle the permit holder to transfer said permit on a temporary or permanent basis to another Commercial Freight Vehicle or Commercial Trailer upon notice of and approval by both the City of Rio Dell Chief of Police and the City Streets Superintendent.

(12) Any person whose permit is revoked under this Section shall have the right to request an administrative hearing before the City Manager or designee within ten (10) days of revocation notice. The permit shall remain suspended pending the outcome of the hearing.

This Ordinance 416-2025 shall become effective thirty (30) days after its approval and adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Rio Dell in the County of Humboldt, State of California, on the 18th day of November, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Debra Garnes, Mayor

ATTEST:

I, Karen Dunham, City Clerk for the City of Rio Dell, State of California, hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a full, true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 416-2025 which was passed, approved and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Rio Dell, held on the 18th day of November, 2025.

Karen Dunham, City Clerk, City of Rio Dell