



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: **T-3**

January 27, 2005

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2456

Dear Supervisors:

**AMENDING TITLE 16 – HIGHWAYS OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE
PROHIBIT CAMPING, LODGING, OR SLEEPING OVERNIGHT ON ANY HIGHWAY
OR IN A VEHICLE PARKED ON A HIGHWAY
ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Ordinance is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15301 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines) and Class I-(x)7 of the County of Los Angeles Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.
2. Adopt the enclosed Ordinance adding Chapter 16.86 to Title 16 – Highways of the Los Angeles County Code, which will prohibit camping, lodging, or sleeping overnight on any highway or in a vehicle parked on a highway, and impose penalties for violations as specified in the enclosed Ordinance.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

The habitation of parked vehicles upon County roadways is a negative impact on the quality of a neighborhood. Numerous complaints have been received from residents in the unincorporated County areas regarding vehicles being parked on public roadways for extended periods, up to years on occasion, as they are being utilized for dwelling purposes. This activity degrades the quality of the neighborhood, poses a nuisance to nearby residents, and may affect public health.

According to Section 15.64.200 of the Los Angeles County Code, the Sheriff's Department shall remove a vehicle that has been parked or left standing upon a highway for 72 or more consecutive hours. However, it has been reported that inhabited vehicles, once marked for parking enforcement purposes, are slightly moved or driven around the block only to return to the same position for the purpose of circumventing the parking requirement. County Code Title 16 – Highways does not currently offer a provision by which your Board can prohibit the habitation of parked vehicles upon County roadways.

The proposed Ordinance will amend Title 16 – Highways of the Los Angeles County Code to add Chapter 16.86, prohibiting camping, lodging, or sleeping overnight on any highway or in a vehicle parked on a highway. Violation of any provision of Chapter 16.86 will be an infraction punishable by fines specified in the enclosed Ordinance.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goal of Organizational Effectiveness, as this Ordinance will allow your Board and Public Works to implement restrictions of inhabited vehicles upon County roadways in a manner more responsive to the needs of our constituents.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Financing is not required.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Adoption of the proposed ordinance is authorized by Section 7 of Article 11 of the California Constitution, which provides as follows:

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A county or city may make and enforce within its limits all local, police, sanitary, and other ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

This action is categorically exempt pursuant to Section 15301 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (the State CEQA Guidelines) and Class I-(x)7 of the County of Los Angeles Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

At such time as this recommendation may be approved, please return one copy of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

DONALD L. WOLFE
Acting Director of Public Works

GS:ja
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Enc.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel (Mark Yanai)
Sheriff's Department (Sheriff Leroy D. Baca)