

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR LINDSEY P. HORVATH

September 24, 2024

Pacific Coast Highway Parking Restrictions

The Pacific Coast Highway, also known as CA-1 or PCH, is a State highway owned and maintained by Caltrans District 7. Also, Los Angeles County includes the section of PCH from the Ventura County border east through a section of unincorporated County, the City of Malibu, and another section of unincorporated County, before entering the City of Los Angeles.

Within the unincorporated community of Santa Monica Mountains just west of the City of Los Angeles, the landward side of PCH is predominantly undeveloped steep hillside marked by extensive dry brush. Above that fire prone area are residences which primarily take access from Coastline Drive.

In 2023, the Los Angeles County Fire Department reported 8 calls for fires of which 4 were confirmed in this area.

The Bridge Fire which started on September 8, 2024, and continues to burn in the Angeles National Forest, is a reminder of the potential for wildfires, particularly in mountainous areas.

MOTION

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According to Los Angeles County's Ready LA County website, "Wildfires are often fueled by dry vegetation and driven by hot, dry "Santa Ana" winds, making them extremely dangerous and difficult to control. Fire season is now year-round and requires everyone to be on heightened alert, especially for those living in wildland area communities."

On the seaward side of PCH in that area, there are County beaches which, per Los Angeles County Code 17.12.350, prohibit loitering on beaches between midnight and 6 a.m., and have parking lot operating hours of 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. from November to March, and 6 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. from April to October.

In 2017, in response to Sunset Mesa resident concerns about parking issues along PCH, the County initiated efforts to enact parking regulations on both the north and south sides of PCH. After two years of working through multiple appeals through the Regional Planning Commission and California Coastal Commission and getting approval from Caltrans, the north side (landward) of PCH was approved for 13 signs to be posted on existing street light poles with signs indicating no parking 12 a.m. to 2 a.m. The south side (seaward) of PCH was approved for 13 signs to be posted on existing street light poles with signs indicating no parking 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. On September 17, 2019, the Board adopted the new traffic regulation orders prohibiting parking, which then became enforceable by the California Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Department.

In the City of Los Angeles, on the landward side of PCH, no parking is allowed on the landward side at any time. On the seaward side, no parking is allowed from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. in some areas, and no parking is allowed at any time in other sections.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

Approve Resolution adopting and rescinding traffic regulations regarding parking along Pacific Coast Highway.

I, FURTHER, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS direct the Department of Public Works, in coordination with the Department of Regional Planning and County Counsel, to, while continuing to follow CEO-HI protocols:

1. Proceed with applying for an encroachment permit from Caltrans to allow Public Works to install, replace, modify, and/or remove permitted signage related to the updated parking restrictions, including tow-away and no camping signs, on Pacific Coast Highway.
2. Proceed with applying for Coastal Commission approval of the installation and removal of related signage on Pacific Coast Highway.
3. Install and maintain modified signage to reflect the board motion and resolution.
4. Maintain the permitted signs in Caltrans right of way.
5. Collaborate with Caltrans and Coastal Commission to address long-term parking issues on both sides of Pacific Coast Highway.
6. The Chief Executive Office, Homeless Initiative to provide Homeless and safe parking service. Also requesting the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to assist in these efforts.

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SUP:LH/mcc

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ADOPTING AND RESCINDING TRAFFIC REGULATIONS REGARDING PARKING ALONG PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY

Whereas, pursuant to County Code Sections 15.64.080 and 15.64.190, the Road Commissioner has certain authorities to install signage on a state highway if given approval from the State.

Whereas, pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 22505, the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has the ability to implement parking restrictions by placing signs with respect to highways under its jurisdiction, restricting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles, including, but not limited to, vehicles which are six feet or more in height (including any load thereon), in certain areas and under certain conditions.

Whereas, pursuant to California Vehicle Code Section 22506, the County is able to, by ordinance or resolution, prohibit or restrict the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles on a state highway, in its jurisdiction, if approved in writing by the Department of Transportation.

Whereas, pursuant to County Code Section 15.64.510, the Board may direct the Road Commissioner to post at certain locations signs reading "Tow Away Zone," or otherwise informing the public that illegally parked vehicles will be removed.

Whereas, sufficient funds are included in the Road Fund Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget to cover the minor costs of removing and installing the necessary signs and markings.

Whereas, since the beaches are effectively closed from sunset to sunrise, prohibiting overnight parking along PCH does not inhibit beach or coastal access.

Whereas, enforcement of the existing parking restrictions is not sufficient to prevent the illegal parking of vehicles and other illegal behavior, including tapping into utility lines, excessive pollution including human waste, and the use of open fires, which are fire hazards.

Whereas, the threat of fire is year round.

Whereas, the Board finds that it is necessary for the reasons described in the accompanying motion to move forward with these parking regulations as soon as possible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED, AND ORDERED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, State of California, that:

1. Find that adopting and/or rescinding various traffic regulation orders and posting the corresponding regulatory and advisory signage are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act.
2. Adopt a traffic regulation order prohibiting parking from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. and establish a tow-away zone on both sides of Pacific Coast Highway from Coastline Drive to the City of Malibu boundary, approximately 1700 feet west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, in the unincorporated community of Santa Monica Mountains.
3. Rescind a traffic regulation order prohibiting parking from 12 a.m. to 2 a.m., on the north side of Pacific Coast Highway between a point 400 feet east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and a point

400 feet west of Coastline Drive, in the unincorporated community, as established on September 17, 2019.

4. Rescind a traffic regulation order prohibiting parking from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m., on the south side of Pacific Coast Highway between a point 400 feet east of Topanga Canyon Boulevard and a point 400 feet west of Coastline Drive, in the unincorporated community, as established on September 17, 2019.

The foregoing resolution was adopted on the _ day of __, 2024, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles.

EDWARD YEN

Executive Office of the

Board of Supervisors of the

County of Los Angeles

By _____

Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

DAWYN R. HARRISON

County Counsel

By  _____

Deputy County Counsel