



**COUNTY OF SAN MATEO**  
**Inter-Departmental Correspondence**  
Department of Public Works



**DATE:** July 11, 2011  
**BOARD MEETING DATE:** July 26, 2011  
**SPECIAL NOTICE/HEARING:** None  
**VOTE REQUIRED:** Majority

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** James C. Porter, Director of Public Works  
**SUBJECT:** Countywide Compact Parking Ordinance

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Adopt an Ordinance adding Chapter 7.46, comprised of Section 7.46.010, to Title 7 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code allowing the creation of Compact Parking Zones.

**BACKGROUND:**

Sections 22503 and 22507 et al. of the California Vehicle Code and Chapters 7.24 through 7.52 of the County Ordinance Code allow the Board of Supervisors to establish parking zones that prohibit or restrict the stopping, parking, or standing of vehicles. This memo addresses a new ordinance that would limit parking in limited areas to compact vehicles in order to meet the demand for parking while at the same time minimizing conflicts with traffic movement.

**DISCUSSION:**

The County Ordinance Code allows for various types of parking configurations, including angled and parallel parking, but does not specifically address limits on the size of vehicle utilizing such spaces. In most locations, the Department of Public Works makes markings pursuant to a Department-determined standard size, and given the circumstances of the location, area traffic is not impacted by use of standard-sized spaces.

However, in certain areas, in order to minimize potential traffic obstruction while preserving adequate parking, staff recommends that the Board consider the adoption of an ordinance allowing designation and marking of certain parking spaces for compact vehicles only. This compact parking ordinance will provide staff with additional flexibility when considering how best to provide sufficient parking without impeding area traffic.

Existing parking ordinance provisions regarding angled and parallel parking have general language limiting vehicles to “within” markings made by the Department. However, there is no specific ordinance allowing the creation of compact spaces in certain areas where allowing standard-sized or oversized vehicle parking would result in traffic obstruction.

It is intended that this Ordinance would be applied to a limited number of parking locations countywide and primarily with the purpose of avoiding interference with traffic movements.

Approval of this Ordinance contributes to the Shared Vision 2025 outcome of a Livable Community by providing parking that facilitates traffic flow through neighborhoods in a way that best fits the needs of the community.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Ordinance as to form.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The cost for staff time involved in evaluating and processing requests for traffic regulations is part of the administrative cost associated with evaluating traffic-related requests on the County maintained road system, and is financed with Road Funds. The cost of installing the necessary legends and markings will be financed with Road Funds.

There will be no impact to the General Fund.

**Ordinance No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**Board of Supervisors, County of San Mateo, State of California**

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**AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 7.46, COMPRISED OF SECTION 7.46.010,  
TO TITLE 7 OF THE SAN MATEO COUNTY ORDINANCE CODE  
ALLOWING THE CREATION OF COMPACT PARKING ZONES**

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The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California,  
ordains as follows:

**SECTION 1.** Chapter 7.46, comprised of Section 7.46.010, is hereby added to  
Title 7 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code and shall read as  
follows:

**Section 7.46.010                      Compact Parking Zones**

The Board of Supervisors shall, by Resolution, determine and  
declare those parking zones or parking spaces, upon the public  
highways over which the County has jurisdiction, which are  
restricted to compact vehicles in order to prevent obstruction of  
vehicular and pedestrian traffic and to maintain the safe and efficient  
flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the County's public  
highways.

The Director of Public Works shall cause to be marked upon the surface of the pavement, by lines, markings, curbs, or other practical manner, the size and limits of any parking spaces restricted for compact cars or smaller vehicles, and shall also mark upon the surface of the pavement the designation "COMPACT."

No person shall stop, park, or leave standing any motor vehicle, whether attended or unattended, except when necessary to avoid conflict with other traffic or in cases of emergency, or in compliance with the directions of a peace officer, in such a manner that any part of the vehicle extends over or across such lines designating the limits of a parking space restricted to compact vehicles.

**SECTION 2.** This Ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days from the passage date thereof.

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