May 24, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: Ordinance to Restrict Parking on a Portion of Muir Woods Road (Franks Valley Road) and Establish a Preferential Parking Program Under Which National Park Service May Issue and Charge Fees for Parking Permits

RECOMMENDATION: Read ordinance by title only and schedule a merit hearing for June 7, 2016, at 10:30 AM.

SUMMARY: On June 30, 2015, your Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Parks Service (NPS). The MOU included an agreement to reduce parking on Muir Woods Road (Franks Valley Road) downstream of Redwood Creek Bridge to 80 spaces by June 1, 2016. On October 2, 2015, your Board adopted Ordinance 3637 which amended County Code Section 15.33.033 and established the Muir Woods Road parking fine zone. This zone restricted parking and authorized fines on sections of Muir Woods Road downstream of the Redwood Creek Bridge and at locations where shoulder width was not sufficient to accommodate on-street parking. These locations have since been signed and are actively enforced. Per the MOU, the number of parking spaces downstream of Redwood Creek Bridge will be incrementally reduced over the next 5 years from 80 spaces to 0 (zero) spaces.

The MOU also includes a provision for the County to adopt an Ordinance to provide preferential parking privileges to NPS which would allow NPS to develop and implement a reservation parking program for available on-street parking spaces along Muir Woods Road. The proposed ordinance will establish a preferential parking corridor that is consistent with the provisions of the MOU. The proposed preferred parking corridor does not include areas where parking is restricted as per County Code section 15.33.033. The preferential parking corridor limits will be reduced in the future as the parking spaces downstream of Redwood Creek Bridge are incrementally reduced from 80 spaces to 40 spaces by December 31, 2018, and from 40 spaces to 0 (zero) spaces by June 1, 2021, as specified in the MOU. If this proposed ordinance is adopted, NPS will be able to further design the parking reservation program and hire a contractor to implement the program. Enforcement of preferential parking in the corridor, however, will not occur until the program is implemented and the preferential parking areas have been adequately signed.
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Staff recommends establishment of a preferred parking corridor on Muir Woods Road beginning at the driveway of Conlon Avenue (milepost 1.77) and extending southerly and westerly to mile post 2.32, except for locations within the Muir Woods Road parking fine zone specified in County Code section 15.33.033

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact to the General Fund by this action.

REVIEWED BY:  
[ ] Department of Finance  
[ X ] N/A  
[ X ] County Counsel  
[ ] N/A  
[ ] Human Resources  
[ X ] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Goralka, P.E., T.E.  
Principal Civil Engineer

c: Robert Mota, Lieutenant, CHP  
Mike Ridgway, Undersheriff  
Steve Delao, Lieutenant, Marin County Sheriff’s Office  
Darren Brown, Transportation Planner, National Park Services  
Victor Bjelajac, California State Parks/Marin Sector  
Eric Steger, Assistant Director, DPW