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

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: Ordinance Establishing Daytime No Parking Zone Option For County Facilities

RECOMMENDATION: Read the ordinance by title only and schedule a Merit Hearing for May 9, 2017, at 10:30 a.m.

SUMMARY: The Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) is installing a commuter rail station near the intersection of McInnis Parkway and Civic Center Drive in San Rafael. Although there are approximately 80 on-street parking spaces on McInnis Parkway in the vicinity of the proposed SMART station, it is anticipated that some SMART commuters may park in the adjacent County property of the Marin Center, informally known as the “Christmas Tree Lot.” The “Christmas Tree Lot” is defined as the parcel bounded on the west by Highway 101, on the south by Peter Behr Drive, on the east by Civic Center Drive, and on the north by the Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit right of way.

The “Christmas Tree Lot” is adjacent to the new SMART train station and would be an attractive parking location for many commuters. However, this area has not been designated for parking by train commuters and SMART commuter parking would impact several County/community programs such as the Farmer’s Market and scheduled events at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium.

It is desired that parking at the “Christmas Tree Lot” be prohibited on weekdays between 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., holidays exempted. Section 9.01.70 of the County Code authorizes the Department of Cultural Services to issue permits for the use of lands and facilities that it manages. It is further desired that the Director of Cultural Services be authorized to issue parking permits and/or allow parking on weekdays between 6:00am and 2:00 pm to accommodate overflow parking for special events that may occur at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium and adjacent County grounds during these hours. Current County ordinances for regulating parking at County facilities do not include this parking prohibition option.
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It is recommended that County Code Chapter 15.30 be amended to include this parking restriction option. After adoption, specific areas could then be designated by resolution. It is also recommended that a provision allowing the Board of Supervisors to authorize a department director to issue parking permits and/or exemptions for parking restrictions within areas that their department manages or maintains be included in the ordinance.

Provided the proposed ordinance passes, there will be brought to the Board of Supervisors on May 9, 2017, a companion resolution that designates the Christmas Tree Lot to have the above parking restrictions.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no additional impact 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
Principal Civil Engineer

c: David Speer, Facilities Planning and Development Manager
Gabriella Callicchio, Director – Cultural and Visitor Services
Mike Ridgway, Undersheriff
Eric Steger, Assistant Director, Public Works