May 9, 2017

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

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

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Conduct the merit hearing; and 2) adopt the ordinance.

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 Marin County Marin Center property 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 6:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. 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.

It is recommended that County Code section 15.30 be amended to include this parking restriction option that could then be designated by resolution to be signed and enforced on the “Christmas Tree Lot” and at other County facilities as needed. It is also recommended that a provision allowing the Board of
Supervisors to authorize department directors to issue parking permits and/or exemptions to parking restrictions within areas that their departments manage or maintain be included in the ordinance.

A first reading of the ordinance was conducted by your Board on April 25, 2017. Provided the proposed ordinance passes, a companion resolution will be brought to the Board of Supervisors that designates daytime no parking zones as described above for the “Christmas Tree Lot.”

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 Calicchio, Director, Cultural and Visitor Services  
Mike Ridgway, Undersheriff  
Eric Steger, Assistant Director

Attachment: Ordinance