



CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS TRAFFIC COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA Wednesday, May 17, 2023 – 7:00 PM

Chris Bieber - Vice Chair

Michael Caputo - Commissioner

Manuel Hernandez - Commissioner

Mark Schaff - Commissioner

Location: City Council Chamber, 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Any person wishing to address the Traffic Commission on any matter, whether or not it appears on this Agenda, is asked to complete a "Request to Speak" form available on the table at the back of the Chamber. The completed form is to be submitted to the Recording Secretary prior to an individual being heard by the Traffic Commission. Completion of the form is voluntary. All persons may attend the meeting regardless of whether this form is completed.

Members of the public wishing to address the Traffic Commission can do so during the Public Comments portion of the Agenda with a time limitation of three minutes per person, an overall time limit of ten minutes for any one subject, and a total time limit of thirty minutes for Public Comments. If you are commenting on an Agenda item, your comments will be heard at the time that item is scheduled on the Agenda. If you are addressing the Commission on an item not listed on the Agenda, the Traffic Commission is prohibited by law from discussing or taking any action on that item.

CALL TO ORDER

Resolution No. 96-04-09-1 established rules of decorum for public meetings held by the City of Laguna Hills. Resolution No. 96-04-09-1 is available on the table at the back of the City Council Chamber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This is the time to address the Traffic Commission on any matter not listed on this Agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. Public Comments are limited to three minutes per person, an overall time limit of ten minutes for any one subject, and a total time limit of thirty minutes.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Minutes

Recommendation: That the Traffic Commission approve the Minutes of March 15, 2023.

3. PRESENTATIONS**4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS****4.1 Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De Valencia Southerly of Valencia Elementary School**

Recommendation: That the Traffic Commission recommend to City Council that the time-based parking zone on Paseo de Valencia southerly of Valencia Elementary School be eliminated, and a No Parking Any Time zone be established without any exceptions.

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**5.1. Sheriff's Department Verbal Report****6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS****7. ADJOURNMENT**

The next Regular Meeting of the Traffic Commission will be July 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, located at 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills California.

CERTIFICATION

I, JOE AMES. P.E., T.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer of the City of Laguna Hills, do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Agenda was posted at Laguna Hills City Hall, Laguna Hills Community Center, and the Courtyard at La Paz Center by May 11, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.



Joe Ames, P.E., T.E., Public Works Director/City Engineer

May 11, 2023

Date

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, you should contact the office of the Public Works Director/City Engineer at (949) 707-2650. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure access.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Commission after distribution of the Agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Public Services Department at 24035 El Toro Road, Laguna Hills, California, during normal business hours.



City of Laguna Hills

Traffic Commission

Staff Report

DATE: May 17, 2023
TO: Traffic Commissioners
FROM: Joe Ames
Public Works Director/City Engineer
ISSUE: Minutes

RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic Commission approve the Minutes of March 15, 2023.

ATTACHMENTS:

- TC Minutes March 15 2023

**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice Chair Chris Bieber.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Caputo let the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Chris Bieber	Vice Chair	Present	
Michael Caputo	Commissioner	Present	
Manuel Hernandez	Commissioner	Present	
Mark Schaff	Commissioner	Absent	7:03 PM

1. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no Public Comments.

2. MINUTES

2.1 Minutes

Recommendation: That the Traffic Commission approve the Minutes of November 16, 2022.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chris Bieber, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	Manuel Hernandez, Commissioner
AYES:	Chris Bieber, Vice Chair, Michael Caputo, Commissioner, Manuel Hernandez, Commissioner
ABSENT:	Mark Schaff, Commissioner

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan

Starla Barker of De Novo Planning Group gave a presentation to the Traffic Commission regarding the City's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Recommendation: That the Traffic Commission: 1) Receive a presentation from De Novo Planning Group on the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; 2) Allow public comments on the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan; and 3) Provide comments on the draft Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, if any.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Caputo, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Manuel Hernandez, Commissioner
AYES:	Chris Bieber, Vice Chair, Michael Caputo, Commissioner, Manuel Hernandez, Commissioner, Mark Schaff, Commissioner

4. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1 Electric Bicycle, Bicycle, and Motorized Mobility Device Safety

Recommendation: That the Traffic Commission: 1) Receive and file the report; 2) Provide comments, if any, on the City staff written report presented at the November 16, 2022, meeting; and 3) Direct Police Services to provide an oral update on bicycle and electric bicycle enforcement at every Traffic Commission meeting.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Caputo, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Chris Bieber, Vice Chair
AYES:	Chris Bieber, Vice Chair, Michael Caputo, Commissioner, Manuel Hernandez, Commissioner, Mark Schaff, Commissioner

5. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

5.1. Sheriff's Department Verbal Report

Captain De La Rosa gave the Commission an update on bicycle and electric bicycle enforcement.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

There were no Commissioner comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Traffic Commission at this session, Vice Chair Bieber declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Joe Ames, Public Works Director/City Engineer

ATTEST:

Chris Bieber, Vice Chair

Approved at meeting of May 17, 2023

Attachment: TC Minutes March 15 2023 (3162 : Minutes)



City of Laguna Hills

Traffic Commission

Staff Report

DATE: May 17, 2023
TO: Traffic Commissioners
FROM: Joe Ames
Public Works Director/City Engineer
ISSUE: Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De Valencia Southerly of Valencia Elementary School

RECOMMENDATION: That the Traffic Commission recommend to City Council that the time-based parking zone on Paseo de Valencia southerly of Valencia Elementary School be eliminated, and a No Parking Any Time zone be established without any exceptions.

SUMMARY:

The Public Works Director/City Engineer received a request from the Director of Facilities, Maintenance, and Construction for Saddleback Valley Unified School District to eliminate the existing time-based parking on the northerly side of Paseo de Valencia easterly of Valencia Elementary School, which currently allows parking from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday as an exception ("no parking exception") within the existing no parking zone. This no parking exception, which also may be referred to as a no parking exemption or a time-based parking zone, was originally requested by Saddleback Valley Unified School District in 1992 and modified in 1998. The District cites that operational changes at Valencia Elementary School and student drop off and pick up observations necessitate eliminating the no parking exception. Therefore, the City staff recommendation is as follows: That the Traffic Commission recommend to City Council that the time-based parking zone on Paseo de Valencia southerly of Valencia Elementary School be eliminated, and a No Parking Any Time zone be established without any exceptions.

Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De Valencia Southerly of Valencia Elementary School
May 17, 2023
Page 2

BACKGROUND:

The Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Construction for Saddleback Valley Unified School District (the “District”) met with the Public Works Director/City Engineer on the afternoon of December 7, 2022, at Valencia Elementary School to observe dismissal and student pick up operations. At that site meeting, SVUSD explained the need to remove the existing no parking exception due to the incompatibility with the Elementary School’s operations.

During student drop off and pick up, some parents parallel park their vehicles along the curb on Paseo de Valencia east of the school entrance. As a result, during student drop off and pick up times, most parents must queue their vehicles in the right through lane (#2 lane) on Paseo de Valencia to access the two school entrance lanes. This queuing results in a delay to through traffic on northbound Paseo de Valencia. In addition, the line of queued vehicles blocks in the parked vehicles on Paseo de Valencia. This becomes a problem especially during student pick up time when some students reach the parked vehicles, whereupon the waiting parents try to exit the parallel parking spaces to leave, but are blocked in by the queued vehicles. Also, during drop off and pick up times, students exit and enter vehicles from the #2 lane, *often crossing in-between the parallel parked vehicles*. The parked vehicles prevent adequate visibility of students by parents in the queuing line and for drivers turning left into the school.

The District indicated that this same queuing, parking and weaving issue was occurring at Serrano Intermediate School in Lake Forest, and similarly, the District made a request to the City of Lake Forest for removal of the no parking exception, which was granted. The District reports that the removal has achieved the desired, successful result.

Student drop off and pick up at Valencia Elementary School has been reviewed by the District, City staff, Traffic Commission, and City Council on several occasions resulting in incremental changes to parking and circulation plans. In 1992, the City worked with the District to implement modifications to the circulation plan on-site, which resulted in the restriping of the school’s on-site parking lot to include two entrance lanes as well as on Paseo de Valencia, which fronts the school.

Also, in 1992, the subject time-based parking zone (or no parking exception) was established to allow school volunteers to park near the school and assist with school activities because the school parking lot was usually full. The original no parking exception times were 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The 1:30 p.m. end time was purposely chosen to be before student dismissal time to ensure the shoulder of the roadway was clear during student dismissal time, so that the shoulder could

Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De Valencia Southerly of Valencia Elementary School

May 17, 2023

Page 3

accommodate afternoon student pick up vehicle queuing. In 1998, the no parking exception end time was extended from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. At the time, the school principal requested this change because motorists were parking along the curb after 1:30 p.m. anyway, instead of queuing along the curb with vehicles running for the afternoon student pick-up. Therefore, in 1998, the school principal concluded that “since the public generally chooses to disobey the law and park there at illegal times” anyway, extending the ending time for the no parking exception would allow parents to legally park. In the December 7, 2022, meeting with the District, the District indicated the on-site parking lot, which has been modified with different striping configurations to maximize on-site parking over the years, is now sufficient for all school personnel and volunteers. Consequently, the District believes the no parking exception on Paseo de Valencia is no longer needed.

The Public Works Director/City Engineer surmises the proposed change to eliminate the no parking exception may again result in violations of the proposed 24-hour no parking zone; however, this should only be temporary as parents are educated on the change and the zone is enforced. Also, some parents who currently park on Paseo de Valencia may be displaced onto La Paz Road or on the section of Paseo de Valencia north of La Paz Road; however, the Public Works Director/City Engineer believes some of these parents will instead join the anticipated, better functioning queuing lane. It should be noted that there are plans to construct a wider sidewalk and new retaining wall along La Paz Road east of Paseo de Valencia, and to install radar speed signs on La Paz Road in the near future.

In consideration of the foregoing information, the Public Works Director/City Engineer concurs with the District’s request to eliminate on-street parking entirely and remove the no parking exception. Therefore, the City staff recommendation is as follows: That the Traffic Commission recommend to City Council that the time-based parking zone on Paseo de Valencia southerly of Valencia Elementary School be eliminated, and a No Parking Any Time zone be established without any exceptions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The removal of the no parking exception time signs has an anticipated cost of \$300. Funds are available for this work in the 2022-23 Fiscal Year Public Works Maintenance Budget.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Saddleback Unified School District Request Letter

Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De Valencia Southerly of Valencia
Elementary School

May 17, 2023

Page 4

- Photos
- Past Traffic Commission and City Council Agenda Reports and Resolutions



Board of Education

Barbara Schulman, President · Dr. Edward Wong, Vice President ·
Suzie R. Swartz, Clerk · Amanda Morrell, Member · Dan Walsh, Member

Crystal Turner, Ed.D.
Superintendent

March 22, 2023

Joe Ames, P.E., T.E.
Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Laguna Hills
24035 El Toro Road
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Re: Valencia Elementary School

Dear Mr. Ames,

I am writing to request modifications to the traffic flow in front of Valencia Elementary at 25661 Paseo de Valencia.

During drop off and dismissal, parents are lining up and parking along Paseo de Valencia south/east of the school entrance. With the vehicles parked along Paseo de Valencia it causes other parents to utilize lane #2 during drop off and pick up times, resulting in a delay to through traffic. In addition, the line of vehicles in lane # 2 often block-in the vehicles parked at the curb from exiting, which in turn causes a “weaving” situation.

Also, during drop off and pick up students exit and enter their vehicles from lane #2, often departing or approaching from between the parked vehicles. This situation prevents adequate visibility for the parents, and for the vehicles turning left into the school campus.

We believe that preventing parking on the street will improve visibility and provide a safe walkway for our students.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Respectfully,

Doug Monfils
Director of Facilities, Maintenance and Construction
Saddleback Valley Unified School District

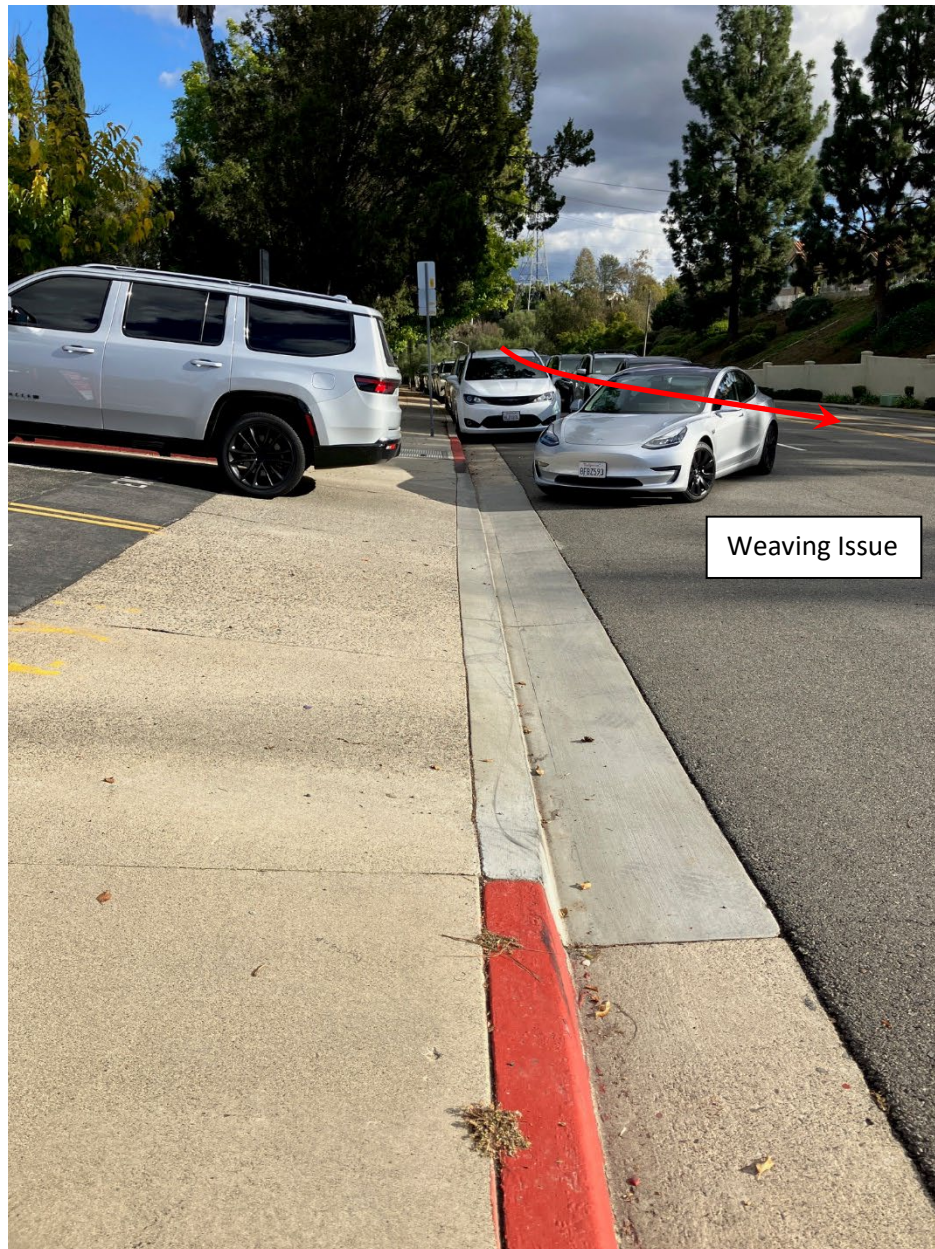
Entrance to Valencia Elementary School, presently:



Queuing and parking on Paseo de Valencia east of school entrance:



Weaving issue illustrated:



RESOLUTION NO. 98-11-24-2

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 92-10-13-1 TO MODIFY THE TIME-BASED PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM OPPOSITE VISTA FIRENZE TO 300 FEET WESTERLY ADJACENT TO VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the City has received a request from the Valencia Elementary School to modify the existing time-based parking zone on the northerly side of Paseo de Valencia easterly of the Valencia Elementary School to allow parking from 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday; and

WHEREAS, the City Traffic Engineer investigated the site and traffic collision history for the existing time-based parking zone and determined that the time change request would not materially affect traffic operations or traffic safety at the location; and

WHEREAS, the City Traffic Commission met and considered this request at its November 18, 1998, regularly scheduled meeting and recommended to the City Council the modification of the existing time-based parking zone to allow parking from the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday within the described limits.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The existing time-based parking zone on the northerly side of Paseo de Valencia from opposite Vista Firenze to 300 feet westerly is modified to allow parking between the hours of 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Parking shall be prohibited at all other times.

SECTION 2. The City Traffic Engineer shall cause the existing time-based parking signs to be modified as described.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED this 24th day of November,
1998.


CINDY GREENGOLD, MAYOR PRO TEMPORE

ATTEST:


MARY A. CARLSON, CITY CLERK

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF ORANGE) ss
CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS)

I, Mary A. Carlson, City Clerk of the City of Laguna Hills, California, DO
HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No.
98-11-24-2 adopted by the City Council of the City of Laguna Hills, California, at
a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 24th day of November 1998,
by the following vote:

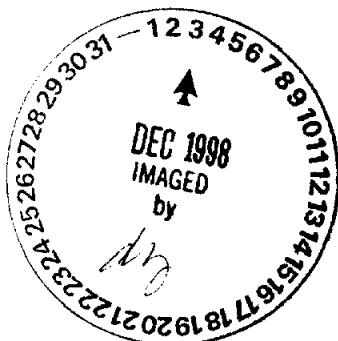
AYES: Council Members Bressette, Lautenschleger, Songstad
Mayor Pro Tempore Greengold

NOES: None

ABSENT: Mayor Scott

ABSTAIN: None

(SEAL)




MARY A. CARLSON, CITY CLERK

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS

AGENDA REPORT PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: **MODIFICATION OF TIME-BASED PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM OPPOSITE VISTA FIRENZE TO 300 FEET WESTERLY (ADJACENT TO VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL)**

SUMMARY:

The Principal of the Valencia Elementary School has requested that the existing time-based parking zone adjacent to the school have the parking time modified to allow school volunteers additional time to park at the location and assist with school activities. The Traffic Commission, at the meeting of November 18, 1998, upon finding no traffic collision history associated with the current parking activities, recommended that the time be changed to the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. as requested. It is recommended that the City Council adopt a Resolution which will implement this time change.

BACKGROUND:

As described in the staff report to the Traffic Commission for the meeting of November 18, 1998, attached, there exists a time-based parking zone for the benefit of the Valencia Elementary School located easterly of the entrance driveway as established by Resolution 92-10-13-01. The establishment of this allowed parking was the result of staff work of both the City and the Saddleback Valley Unified School District in 1992 to improve traffic circulation and parking conditions around the Valencia Elementary School. However, the current school Principal contacted staff with a request that the time of the allowed parking be changed due to changed conditions at the school. As a result of a field review and traffic collision history review, staff concluded that the time change could be approved. The Traffic Commission, at the meeting of November 18, 1998, recommended to the City Council an approval of a time change of the allowed parking to the hours of 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 92-10-13-1 TO MODIFY THE TIME-BASED PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM OPPOSITE VISTA FIRENZE TO 300 FEET WESTERLY ADJACENT TO VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL."

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Packet Pg. 17

NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4.1.c

Agenda Report
Page 2
Modification of Time-Based Parking Zone
on the Northerly Side of Paseo de Valencia
From Opposite Vista Firenze To 300 Feet
Westerly (Adjacent to Valencia Elementary School)

FISCAL IMPACT:

The existing time-based parking zone signs can be modified by placing a placard over the existing time limits at an estimated cost of \$50, and funds for this work are included in the 1998-99 Public Works Maintenance Budget.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ADOPT A RESOLUTION ENTITLED: "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION 92-10-13-1 TO MODIFY THE TIME-BASED PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM OPPOSITE VISTA FIRENZE TO 300 FEET WESTERLY ADJACENT TO VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL."

ATTACHMENTS:

Resolution
November 18, 1998, Staff Report

[develop/char/agenda/citycouncil/110898/timebasedpaking](#)

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
TRAFFIC ENGINEER DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: PASEO DE VALENCIA TIME BASED PARKING AT VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY:

The Principal of the Valencia Elementary School has contacted staff with a request to modify the time based parking on Paseo de Valencia southerly of the school boundary. The purpose of this request is to allow additional time for school volunteers to park near the school and assist with school activities. The original basis of the time based parking was to prohibit parking during the morning drop off and afternoon pick up times and reduce congestion around the school. However, staff has reviewed accident history at this location and has not identified that the parking of vehicles before or after the allotted time has contributed to any accident history. Accordingly, staff recommends that the parking times be modified as requested to the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

BACKGROUND:

In 1992, at the request of the request of the Saddleback Valley Unified School District, the City and School District worked cooperatively to modify the existing traffic and parking patterns in the vicinity of the Valencia Elementary School. These changes were implemented to accommodate an increasing number of vehicles both dropping off and picking students before and after the school day as well as additional volunteers needing to park at the school. This matter was addressed to the Traffic Commission as an informational item at the July 15, 1998 meeting. A detailed background discussion on the purpose of the existing time based parking zones is provided in the attached July 15, 1998, Traffic Commission agenda report along with staff reports from August 19 and September 16, 1992.

The attached letter from the Valencia Elementary School Principal, Michelle S. Vaught, requested that the parking zone time limit be changed from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m to 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The primary purpose for the time based parking zone on Paseo de Valencia southerly of the Valencia Elementary School entry was to allow volunteers to park near the school

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE TIME BASED PARKING ZONE ON PASEO DE VALENCIA SOUTHERLY OF VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BE CHANGED TO ALLOW PARKING FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

Agenda Report
Paseo de Valencia Time Based Parking
at Valencia Elementary School
Page 2

between the times that school began and ended. Parking was prohibited at other times so that there were not parked cars along Paseo de Valencia when parents were lining up in the morning to drop off or in the afternoon to pick up their children. This allowed the queue of vehicles to be positioned next to the curb and not sit in the number two travel lane of Paseo de Valencia. The queue of vehicles was intended to utilize the parking lane as a continuously flowing third lane to enter the school grounds, allow pick up their children and exit. It has been reported to staff, however, that this plan is not in practice today, that there are continuously parked vehicles in the time based parking zone, and parents are still able to negotiate the travel lanes and enter into the school grounds without incident. A review of traffic accident history in this area revealed no traffic collisions associated with the area in question.

Given the lack of accident history, staff has no objection to the requested time change.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THAT THE TIME BASED PARKING ZONE ON PASEO DE VALENCIA SOUTHERLY OF VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BE CHANGED TO ALLOW PARKING FROM 8:00 A.M. TO 3:30 P.M. MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

ATTACHMENTS:

Letter from the Valencia Elementary School Principal
July 15, 1998, Traffic Commission Agenda Report
Staff Reports from August 19 and September 16, 1992

VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

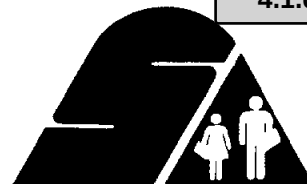
25661 Paseo de Valencia
Laguna Hills, California 92653
(714) 830-3650
FAX: (714) 830-1868
Michelle S. Vaught, Principal

4.1.c

RECEIVED

SEP 21 1998

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
September 17, 1998



"Preparing today's students
succeed in tomorrow's world"

City of Laguna Hills
Attn: Ken Rosenfield, Traffic Engineer
25201 Paseo de Alicia #151
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Dear Mr. Rosenfield:

Pursuant to our telephone conversation today, I would like to request a study of the feasibility of changing our street signs permitting parking on the curb, south of the entrance into our parking lot, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to the new times of 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

As you explained it, the intent of the law was to provide a clear path for cars to travel on this curb lane into the parking lot to allow a free flowing path of travel. Unfortunately, this is not accomplished, since the public generally chooses to disobey the law and park there at illegal times anyway.

You indicated you would be able to conduct a study to determine the impact of changing the signs to reflect an expanded time commensurate with our school times. This change would probably not have any significant impact on the flow of traffic but may allow our parents to model legal behavior for our students.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this matter. Please advise me what evaluation your department concluded on the effectiveness of changing the times on the sign.

Very truly yours,

Michelle S. Vaught
Principal

**SADDLEBACK VALLEY
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**

25631 DISEÑO DRIVE
MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA 92691
(714) 586-1234

NOV 13 1998 ITEM 5

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Peter A. Hartman

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Marcia L. Birch, Presiden
Don Sedgwick, Vice Pres.
Nancy W. Kirkpatrick, Clerk
Dore J. Gilbe
Debbie Hughes, Member

Packet Pg. 21

Attachment: Past Traffic Commission and City Council Agenda Reports and Resolutions (3161 : Removal of No Parking Exception on Paseo De

CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
TRAFFIC ENGINEER DEPARTMENT

ISSUE: PARKING CONTROLS IN THE VICINITY OF VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY:

In response to a request by a Traffic Commissioner, staff has collected the historical staff reports related to parking controls and other traffic controls in the vicinity of the Valencia Elementary School at the corner of Paseo de Valencia and La Paz Road. In addition, staff has performed a field review of available parking along La Paz Road in the same vicinity. The current traffic controls and parking regulations on Paseo de Valencia were implemented in 1992 as described in the attached staff reports. Additionally, parking is available on La Paz Road except at an OCTA bus stop and an easterly bound right turn lane (at Paseo de Valencia.) This report is provided for the Traffic Commission's information and input as to any potential need to modify the existing parking.

BACKGROUND:

As described on the attached two staff reports which were provided to the Traffic Commission, and ultimately to the City Council, dated August 19, 1992 and September 16, 1992, the City and Saddleback Valley Unified School District worked together to change and improve traffic controls in the vicinity of Valencia Elementary School. The traffic controls currently in place are those which were approved following these 1992 reports. Of particular interest to the Commission has been the permissive parking zone southeasterly of the school along Paseo de Valencia. This permissive parking zone was originally created so that volunteers to the school could have curb side parking at times which would not conflict with the morning drop off or afternoon pick up of students. Staff is available to work with the School District again, if the Traffic Commission deems it necessary, to review and revise the time based parking at this location. In addition, an inquiry was made as to the ability to park along La Paz Road in the vicinity of the school. Currently, with two exceptions, parking is permitted on both sides of La Paz Road on either side of Paseo de Valencia. The two exceptions are an OCTA bus stop and a right turn lane area. While generally the City intends to prohibit parking along arterial highways, parking is currently permitted in this area and there are no near term plans to change this parking.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION RECEIVE AND FILE.

ATTACHMENTS:

Staff Reports Dated August 19, 1992 and September 16, 1992

NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4 . 5

NOV 13 1998 ITEM 5 . 2 . 1

JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5 .

**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
TRAFFIC ENGINEER'S OFFICE**

ISSUE: TRAFFIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENT @ VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The Valencia Elementary School is located on Paseo de Valencia at the intersection with La Paz Road. There has been a recurrent traffic congestion problem at this location during morning dropoff and afternoon pickup times at the school. The vast majority of students arrive at the school by private passenger vehicle and the traffic controls on Paseo de Valencia and the functional use of the school parking lot contribute to congestion and concerns for traffic and pedestrian safety at the location. Staff has prepared a plan to mitigate the issues in a cooperative effort with representatives of the school district. A variety of traffic control changes are proposed in a striping and signing plan which will compel the orderly movement of morning and afternoon dropoff and pickup traffic at the location.

BACKGROUND

The Valencia Elementary School is located on Paseo de Valencia at the northeast intersection with La Paz Road. The school accommodates approximately 900 students with a typical morning start time of 7:45 a.m. and an afternoon end time of 1:45 p.m. The school includes an onsite parking lot which is relatively large for schools but is still only adequate to accommodate employees and a few visitors. A traffic problem has been identified at this location during the morning dropoff and afternoon pickup times for the students by way of traffic congestion, a disregard for existing traffic controls and concerns for pedestrian safety. Staff has worked closely with the school district to evaluate this problem and has proposed improvements to the traffic controls to enhance the orderly flow of vehicles at this location. Staff has met with the district representative, Mr. Tom Tollar, on three occasions and with the principal of the school, Mr. Don

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF THE STRIPING AND SIGNING CHANGES ON PASEO DE VALENCIA IN THE VICINITY OF THE VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4.5

JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5.1

NOV 18 1998 ITEM 5 AUG 19 1992 ITEM 6.1

Agenda Report
 Traffic Safety Improvement @
 Valencia Elementary School
 Page 2

Snyder, on one occasion. Mr. Snyder estimated that of the 900 students, approximately 70 use bus transportation, 150 walk or bicycle and the balance, about 680 students, arrive by private passenger vehicle. Field observation revealed severe congestion by passenger vehicles attempting to enter and exit the parking lot at both driveways, one located at the westerly end of the parking lot and one located at the easterly end of the parking lot, the blocking of the eastbound Valencia through lane by vehicles waiting to turn left into the lot, a common violation of the no stopping zone in front of the school, execution of mid-block u-turns, mid-block pedestrian crossing of Paseo de Valencia, parking lot obstruction by the two school buses, and general confusion of traffic movements.

Staff has developed an improvement plan to enhance the orderly movement of vehicular traffic at the Valencia Elementary School, attached. This plan eliminates several of the undesirable conditions which exists at the present time. Improvement includes the establishment of the easterly driveway as an entrance only to the parking lot and the westerly driveway as an exit only from the parking lot, the development of a left turn pocket on Paseo de Valencia, the elimination of parking on the southside of Paseo de Valencia, and the expansion of the passenger loading zone. The use of an entrance only driveway allows for two lanes of traffic, left turn and right turn, to enter the parking lot and utilize the onsite isle widths for pickup and dropoff of students and then to exit the parking through a dual right turn only area. The utilization of the parking lot for parking is not adversely affected by this plan.

The most significant modification for the school operation by this plan is to relocate the two daily school buses from parking onsite in the parking lot to parking on Paseo de Valencia adjacent to the westerly driveway. There is adequate room for the buses to park at this location and to not inhibit the travel lanes. In discussions with the School District, they are favorably disposed to the plan as presented herein and currently see no objection to moving the buses to the street parking.

The only substantial change in the traffic movement on Paseo de Valencia by this plan is a requirement that the vehicles exiting the school parking lot make a right turn only. It is anticipated that there will be some vehicles that desire to travel easterly on Paseo de Valencia (a left turn) instead of being forced to go westerly. However, these vehicles will have an opportunity to move into the left turn pocket of Paseo de Valencia at La Paz Road and make a u-turn or to make a right turn onto La Paz Road and traverse to Cabot Road to return from the direction that they came. All other traffic movements remain the same as currently exist but are made in a manner which enhances traffic safety. At the time of the preparation of this plan, an open issue was whether or not the curb in front of the school should be changed from a no stopping zone to a partial loading zone.

JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5 1

NOV 13 1998 ITEM 5.2

AUG 19 1998 ITEM 5.1

Upon further review and in discussions with the School District, it is suggested that this zone remain a no stopping area so that pedestrians are not dropped off at this location and then wander through the parking lot to get to the school, an unsafe movement.

A further discussion of the above described issues is provided in the memorandum from Mr. Jerry Crabill, a Traffic Engineer with BSI Consultants, dated July 30, 1992, attached.

The school year begins on September 10, 1992 and the original desire of this improvement plan was to have it implemented prior to the start of school. However, coincidentally, the City is preparing a Pavement Improvement Plan on Paseo de Valencia between La Paz Road and Cabot which will place an asphalt concrete overlay over the entire street. This maintenance project will eliminate all the existing striping and provide an opportunity to install this new striping plan. The advantage to performing the striping work after this maintenance activity is to eliminate the costly activity of sandblasting the existing striping, installing this new striping, and then reinstalling the striping after the maintenance activity occurs. Unfortunately, due to a review by the funding agency (CalTrans) for the maintenance project, it will not be feasible to do this work before the beginning of school. It is anticipated that this new striping and signing plan can be implemented by December, 1992. One of the advantages to this time frame is that this will permit the school and the city to notify the parents of the impending change to the striping so that they can anticipate a change in their driving habits.

FISCAL IMPACT

The signing and striping changes on Paseo de Valencia in the vicinity of the Valencia Elementary School would be approximately \$1,500. That figure would increase to \$3,000 if the sandblasting of the existing striping would have to be performed.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE APPROVAL OF THE STRIPING AND SIGNING CHANGES ON PASEO DE VALENCIA IN THE VICINITY OF THE VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

ATTACHMENTS:

Copy of July 30, 1992 Memorandum from Jerry Crabill
Improvement Plan

Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: July 30, 1992
TO: Ken Rosenfield
FROM: Jerry Crabill 
SUBJECT: Valencia School Area Circulation Study

We have completed our evaluation of suggested improvements for the Valencia School area. Our review involved the circulation of the school's on-site parking lot as well as the roadway, Paseo de Valencia, which fronts the school. We have provided our suggestions and recommendataions on the attached plans.

Paseo de Valencia has been restriped per the attached. As shown, both directions of traffic have been separated by a substantial solid double double yellow stripe and a 200-foot left-turn pocket for the eastbound direction of travel. The reason we prepared the plan as shown is to create an inbound only driveway at the east boundary of the school while the westerly driveway would be outbound only. We feel that by establishing a one-directional flow of traffic, that a safer situation would occur since the several conflicts which currently exist in terms of different directions of traffic would be virtually eliminated.

As stated, the westerly driveway is suggested to be a two-lane outbound facility only and further, it would be a right-turn only driveway. With the exception of parents who drive their children to and from the east, we doubt that such a right-turn movement would create an inconvenience to the parents of the school. For those desiring to travel back to the east, recognizing that a left turn from the driveway would not be available, they could do so via a U-turn at La Paz Road or they could make a circuitous route via a right turn at La Paz Road. In any event, we do not see the level of traffic making either of those two movements as being an undesirable situation.

Our traffic plan also makes a recommendation to remove buses from the on-site school circulation area. In our opinion, bus loading should occur within the first few hundred feet of curb area just to the west of the school's west driveway. Since all bus loading and unloading would occur on the sidewalk, there would be no conflict with passing cars and the danger to either the bus, the bus's driver, or most important the children, would be negligible.

Along the curb area in front of the school, the configuration of driveways as proposed could now permit its use for parent drop off and pick up activities. While we recognize that there is an obvious disadvantage of such a situation (i.e. children walking across the parking lot or one of

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NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4 . 5
 JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5 . 1
 AUG 19 1992 ITEM 6 . 1

NOV 18 1998 ITEM 5 . 2

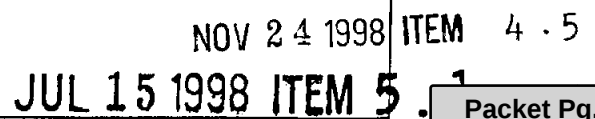
Memorandum
 Valencia School Circulation Study
 July 30, 1992
 Page 2

two driveways), the school should nevertheless consider the use of that curb for the following reason. It can be expected that virtually every school in the area will experience a substantial increase in parents driving their children to school beginning next year. For that reason, curb space for loading and unloading becomes more critical to maintain manageable levels of congestion in school areas. Recognizing the problem with children walking across the parking lot and/or the driveways, that could be mitigated by requiring all children to cross at either the inbound or the outbound driveway. Because the school buses will be parking adjacent to the west driveway, we recommend that procedures be established so that no crossings occur at the inbound driveway. Instead, all crossings from the school front curb area should occur at the outbound driveway. This will not be an unsafe situation since exiting parents will not be "in such a hurry" to leave as opposed to the entering movement. If about 30 feet of red zone is provided on the east side of the west driveway, there should be adequate sight distance for that driver exiting that area.

The above curb parking area should also be supported by additional drop off and loading zone area along the curb to the east of the easterly driveway. I suggest that given the projections of new parent drivers next year, that as much room be provided in that area as is practical. This will be feasible since the outside curb line is 20 feet wide.

Within the school area itself, it is our suggestion that a meeting be held with the school officials to discuss on-site circulation. We envision that two lanes of drop off would be available together with parking stalls for the faculty. Also, an existing area currently restricted to cars would be available to aid in creating better on-site circulation.

As in all cases, and given the several unknowns that occur every year with schools, it is impossible to predict whether or not this plan will be fully workable as the year progresses. Therefore, we suggest that we follow normal procedures where as in this case, our best efforts are directed to solving what we feel will be a circulation problem in and around the school. Once the situation has "had a chance to work", it should be monitored again and fine-tuned as necessary.



NOV 16 1998 ITEM 5.2

AUG 19 1992 ITEM 6.1

**CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS
TRAFFIC COMMISSION
AGENDA REPORT
TRAFFIC ENGINEER'S OFFICE**

**ISSUE: PERMISSIVE PARKING ZONE EASTERLY OF VALENCIA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON PASEO DE VALENCIA**

SUMMARY

On August 19, 1992, the Traffic Commission reviewed and approved the planned modifications to street striping and signing in the vicinity of the Valencia Elementary School for the enhancement of traffic circulation in the area. On September 8, 1992, the City Council also approved this plan with a modification to request that parking be permitted on the northerly side of Paseo de Valencia from the easterly driveway of the Valencia Elementary School to Vista Firenze during times of the day when volunteers are in use at the school, but not at times in conflict with the access to and from the school for drop off and pick up of students. The City Traffic Engineer has reviewed this location and is of the opinion that adequate visibility and roadway width exists to allow this parking.

BACKGROUND

On August 19, 1992, the City Traffic Commission reviewed and approved the striping and signing modifications to Paseo de Valencia in the vicinity of the Valencia Elementary School to enhance the traffic circulation of the area. This plan included the development of a passenger loading zone on the northside of Paseo de Valencia easterly of the east driveway of the school. The purpose of this passenger loading zone was to provide a space for cars to queue as they approached the school to drop off or pick up the students and to enter, by right hand turn, the driveway. It was not desired to allow full time parking at this location so that there was not a conflict with the morning and afternoon peak traffic demand periods. On September 8, 1992, the City Council reviewed the

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PERMISSIVE PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM THE EASTERLY DRIVEWAY OF THE VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO VISTA FIRENZE DURING THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. DAILY.

NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4 . 5

JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5 . 1

NOV 13 1998 ITEM 5 . 2

SEP 16 1992 ITEM 5 . 2

Agenda Report

PERMISSIVE PARKING ZONE EASTERLY OF VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON PASEO DE VALENCIA

Page 2

Paseo de Valencia improvements and approved them with one modification. The City Council requested that the passenger loading zone be modified to allow parking during times other than the peak traffic period. The purpose for this request was a concern raised by the City Council about adequate parking at the school for the volunteers that assist in the school classrooms. Given that the school parking lot is typically fully utilized by staff, support personnel and parents, the additional parking spaces were necessary.

The City Traffic Engineer performed a follow up field review of the subject location and determined that parking in the subject area would not create a sight distance problem for vehicles exiting on the westerly driveway of the parking lot and that the roadway was sufficient to accommodate a parked car in the same sense that it would accommodate a passenger loading car. Staff has been in contact with the school district and they are supportive of the proposal to add a permissive parking zone as described herein. At the time of the writing of this report, the school district had not as yet confirmed the exact times when they felt the parking would be most useful, however, as school begins at 7:45 a.m. and lets out at 1:45 p.m., staff is presently recommending the allowance of parking from 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on a daily basis. Hence, the location would be posted with a no parking zone from the hours of 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The parking zone will be sufficient to accommodate approximately 15 vehicles, which is the typical number of volunteers described as assisting at the school.

FISCAL IMPACT

The modification of the signing improvements to the subject location from a passenger loading zone to a permissive parking zone will not incur any additional costs other than which was already accounted for in the August 19, 1992 traffic commission report.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT THE TRAFFIC COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PERMISSIVE PARKING ZONE ON THE NORTHERLY SIDE OF PASEO DE VALENCIA FROM THE EASTERLY DRIVEWAY OF THE VALENCIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO VISTA FIRENZE DURING THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 1:30 P.M. DAILY.

NOV 24 1998 ITEM 4 . 5

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JUL 15 1998 ITEM 5 . 1

SEP 16 1992 ITEM

NOV 13 1998 ITEM 5 . 2

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