

Agenda Date: April 21, 2026

Agenda No.: 8

Railroad Avenue

30-Day Update Since Adoption of Ordinance

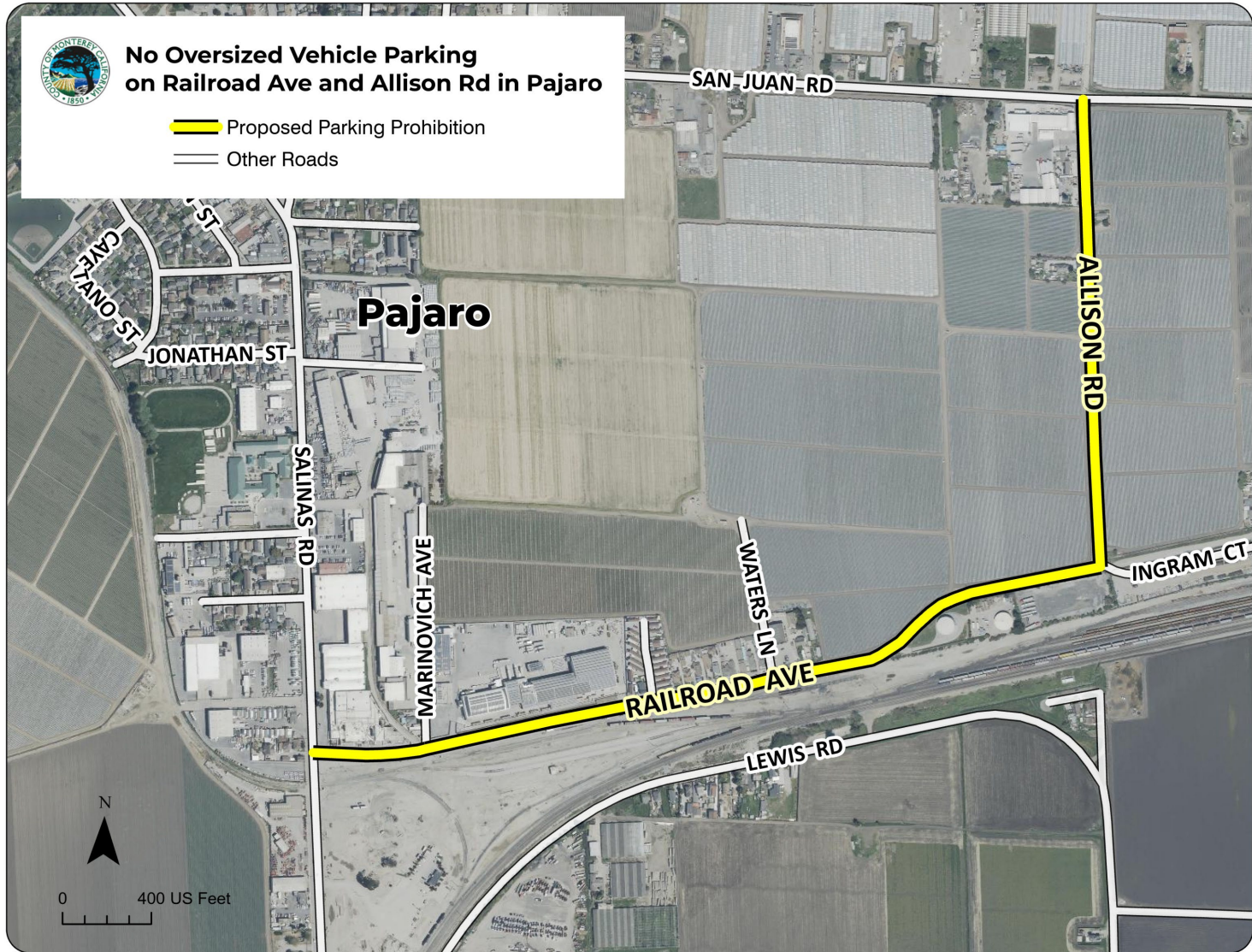
Board Referral No. 2025.11



Presentation Overview

- Background
- Progress to date
- Recommendations
- Questions/Comments

Location Map



Background

- Board Referral No 2025.11 (Church)
 - Homeless individuals are living in recreational vehicles along this road without appropriate services.
 - Roadside parking of recreational vehicles on Railroad Avenue has created a persistent and growing public health and safety concern for the community and businesses of Pajaro.
 - Those living in recreational vehicles along this road without appropriate services are causing disruptions for residents and businesses, including crime, traffic hazards from parked vehicles that block travel lanes, and illegal dumping of trash and refuse.
 - Seeks to adopt an ordinance to prohibit recreational vehicles from parking on the entirety of Railroad Avenue, establish a tow-away zone, and authorize the immediate removal of vehicles

Background *continued*

- November 4, 2025 Board Meeting
 - Received Preliminary Analysis Report
 - Added Allison Road
 - Identify and evaluate potential solutions for individuals residing in recreational vehicles, including the possible establishment of a Safe Parking Program.
- February 10, 2026 Board Meeting
 - 1st reading of ordinance
 - Return with status update of connections to services, and explore expanding prohibition to all roads in Pajaro

Background *continued*

- March 10, 2026 Board Meeting
 - 2nd Reading/Adoption of ordinance
 - Reassess services, regional coordination, and possible expansion of the ordinance
 - Return with status update on April 7, 2026, prior to the ordinance becoming effective, with CAO meeting with City of Watsonville and Santa Cruz County, explore expanding prohibition to all roads in Pajaro and to include trailers, continue with connecting to services and proceeding with a Safe Parking Program (as well as near-term alternatives)

Progress Since Adoption

- Connecting to services
 - The most recent census, taken on March 19, revealed ten (10) RVs remaining on Railroad Avenue. The County of Santa Cruz and Community Action Board (CAB) of Santa Cruz County outreach workers attempted weekly engagements with the RV occupants; however, they were unsuccessful in making contact with the vast majority of the households.
 - Outreach workers identified two open slots at the nearest safe parking program in the City of Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, where the 24-ft size limit disqualified households that were actively engaged. Business cards were left on the windows, doors, and windshields of vehicles with failed contact attempts.

Progress Since Adoption *continued*

- Connecting to services
 - One household with a senior citizen and a minor is enrolled in the County of Santa Cruz's housing navigation program.
 - County staff is continuing to explore a Safe Parking Program for North Monterey County.
 - Staff recently learned that the property located at 2 Lewis Court, Pajaro, has closed escrow and is no longer available.
 - County staff is searching for other locations and exploring a Safe Parking Program.

Progress Since Adoption *continued*

- Discussions with adjacent local agencies
 - County of Monterey's CAO has held initial discussions with representatives of, and is coordinating with, Santa Cruz County, the City of Watsonville, and the Santa Cruz Office of Education

Progress Since Adoption *continued*



Progress Since Adoption *continued*



Progress Since Adoption *continued*

- Explore expanding the prohibition to more roads in Pajaro
 - The City of Watsonville ordinance became effective and began enforcement on March 13, 2026.
 - Data has been limited since then; most abandoned and oversized-vehicle issues appear to be on Railroad Avenue.
 - Consensus among law enforcement to expand the ordinance to more roads in Pajaro.

Recommendations

- Receive a status update on Ordinance No. 5443, adding Section 12.28.013 to Title 12 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit oversized vehicle parking at all times with tow away authorization on Railroad Avenue on both sides from the centerline of Salinas Road easterly to its end, and Allison Road on both sides between Railroad Avenue and San Juan Road, in the unincorporated area of the County of Monterey; and
- Provide direction to staff.

Questions or Comments?

