

ORDINANCE NO. 5419

AN URGENCY ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AMENDING SECTION 12.28.010 OF THE MONTEREY COUNTY CODE TO PROHIBIT PARKING AT ALL TIMES ON COAST ROAD

County Counsel Summary

This is an urgency ordinance for the immediate protection of the public peace, health, and safety of Monterey County residents and visitors to prohibit parking along Coast Road due to individuals parking vehicles on Coast Road in an unsafe manner creating obstruction of the travel lanes, and a danger to pedestrians and vehicles. Over the past decade, the Bixby Bridge has become a destination for millions of Big Sur visitors each year. Unfortunately, the area has become an unsafe bottleneck with visitors stopping and parking directly on Highway 1, barricading access points, and illegally crossing the Highway in order to take photos of the iconic Bridge. On the north side of the Bixby Bridge, Highway 1 intersects with the County's Coast Road, a residential access point and emergency alternative to Highway 1, which has been severely impacted by the increased levels of visitation. This ordinance amends Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit parking along Coast Road on both sides from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of 1260 feet. This ordinance is an urgency ordinance pursuant to Government Code section 25123 and requires a four-fifths vote for adoption.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey ordains as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS.

- A. Pursuant to Article XI, section 7 of the California Constitution, the County of Monterey ("County") may adopt and enforce ordinances and regulations not in conflict with general laws to protect and promote the public health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.
- B. California Vehicle Code section 22507 authorizes the County to enact regulations by ordinance to prohibit or restrict parking of vehicles on certain streets and highways.
- C. In response to community concerns, District 5 prepared Board Referral No. 2023.22 seeking to identify solutions to respond to the immediate public peace, health and safety emergency concerns at the Bixby Bridge in Big Sur due to increased levels of visitation resulting in traffic congestion, parking issues, blocked residential access, blocked emergency vehicle access, and unsafe illegal pedestrian crossings across State Highway 1 ("Highway 1").
- D. On January 23, 2024, Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) staff provided the Board of Supervisors a preliminary analysis report in response to said Board referral. Over the past decade, the Bixby Bridge has become a destination for millions of Big Sur visitors each

year. Unfortunately, due to a lack of proper infrastructure, parking regulations, enforcement personnel, and geographic space, the area has become an unsafe bottleneck with visitors stopping and parking directly on Highway 1, barricading access points, and illegally crossing the Highway in order to take photos of the iconic Bridge. On the North side of the Bridge, Highway 1 intersects with the County's Coast Road (aka: Old Coast Road), a residential access point and emergency alternative to Highway 1, which has been severely impacted by the increased levels of visitation.

E. Specifically, law enforcement and residents of the area have reported that vehicles park and create public health and safety concerns regarding obstruction of the travel lanes along Coast Road. These obstructions are a danger to vehicles and pedestrians in the area, especially as traffic in the area increases on Highway 1 around the Bixby Bridge.

F. It is noted that there is an existing parking prohibition for Coast Road in Monterey County Code Section 12.28.010, on the north side of Coast Road from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of three hundred fifty (350) feet. The County has received multiple requests from community groups and residents advocating for the establishment of further restricted parking along Coast Road.

G. On March 30, 2024, staff was informed that Highway 1 experienced a highway slip-out near Rocky Creek. The road was impassable for a brief period of time, until Caltrans was able to make a determination that the Highway was stable to serve as a one-lane, one-way alternating direction highway, with convoys two times per day. Caltrans began temporary repairs, and officially reopened the Highway on May 17, 2024. Because the repairs were temporary, the Highway reopened as a one-lane, one-way alternating direction highway controlled by a temporary traffic signal (i.e., the traffic signal alternates northbound traffic with southbound traffic, with a five-minute green time).

H. During the 2024 Memorial Day Weekend, reports from the public stated that vehicles were once again parked in both the shoulders of Highway 1 and the facility's travel lanes, and similarly were parked in the dirt shoulders and dirt travel lanes of Coast Road. In addition, parked vehicles and stopped traffic blocked the intersection of Coast Road and Highway 1, which residents stated could impede first responders' access and blocked residents from their only access point. There are reports from residents that the temporary traffic signal has made conditions worse than before.

I. Caltrans is working on a long-term permanent repair for the Rocky Creek slip-out repair location, whose scope is to restore the Highway to two lanes (one lane each direction), as it was prior to the slip-out. However, the timeframe for this permanent repair is anticipated to take several months until completion.

J. Given all of above, it is necessary and appropriate for the immediate protection of the public peace, health, and safety of Monterey County residents and visitors to prohibit parking along Coast Road on both sides from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of 1260 feet.

K. County staff will revisit the Coast Road parking prohibition once the temporary traffic signal on Highway 1 is removed.

L. The adoption of the ordinance is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to sections 15301(c) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines because the action will involve negligible changes to the existing County regulations that govern the existing County highways and streets, and the action is for the protection of the environment.

SECTION 2. Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code is amended to delete the following paragraph:

Coast Road, on the north side of Coast Road from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of three hundred fifty (350) feet;

SECTION 3. Section 12.28.010 of the Monterey County Code is amended to add the following paragraph:

Coast Road, on both sides from the centerline of State Highway 1 easterly for a distance of one thousand two hundred sixty (1,260) feet;

SECTION 4. OTHER ACTIONS.

County staff are authorized and directed to take such other and further actions as may be necessary or appropriate to implement the intent and purposes of this ordinance including the posting of appropriate signage in and around the described locations.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY.

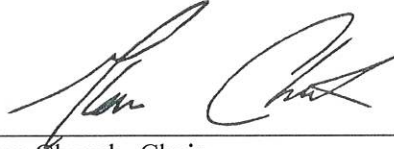
If any section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Supervisors hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause and phrase thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, sentences, clauses, or phrases be declared invalid.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TERM.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately as an urgency ordinance based on the finding of the Board of Supervisors that this ordinance is adopted in compliance with Government Code section 25123, that it is necessary for the immediate protection of the public peace, health, and safety, and shall remain in effect until it is terminated or superseded.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 9th day of July 2024 by the following vote:

AYES Supervisors Church, Lopez, Root Askew, and Adams
NOES None
ABSENT Supervisor Alejo
ASTAIN None
Motion Passed 4 to 0



Glenn Church, Chair
Monterey County Board of Supervisors

A T T E S T:

Valerie Ralph
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: 
Deputy Emmanuel H. Santos

APPROVED AS TO FORM BY:



Kelly L. Donlon
Assistant County Counsel