

Agenda Date: March 10, 2026

Agenda No.: 31

# Railroad Avenue

Consider adoption of ordinance to  
prohibit oversized vehicle parking at all times  
with tow away authorization

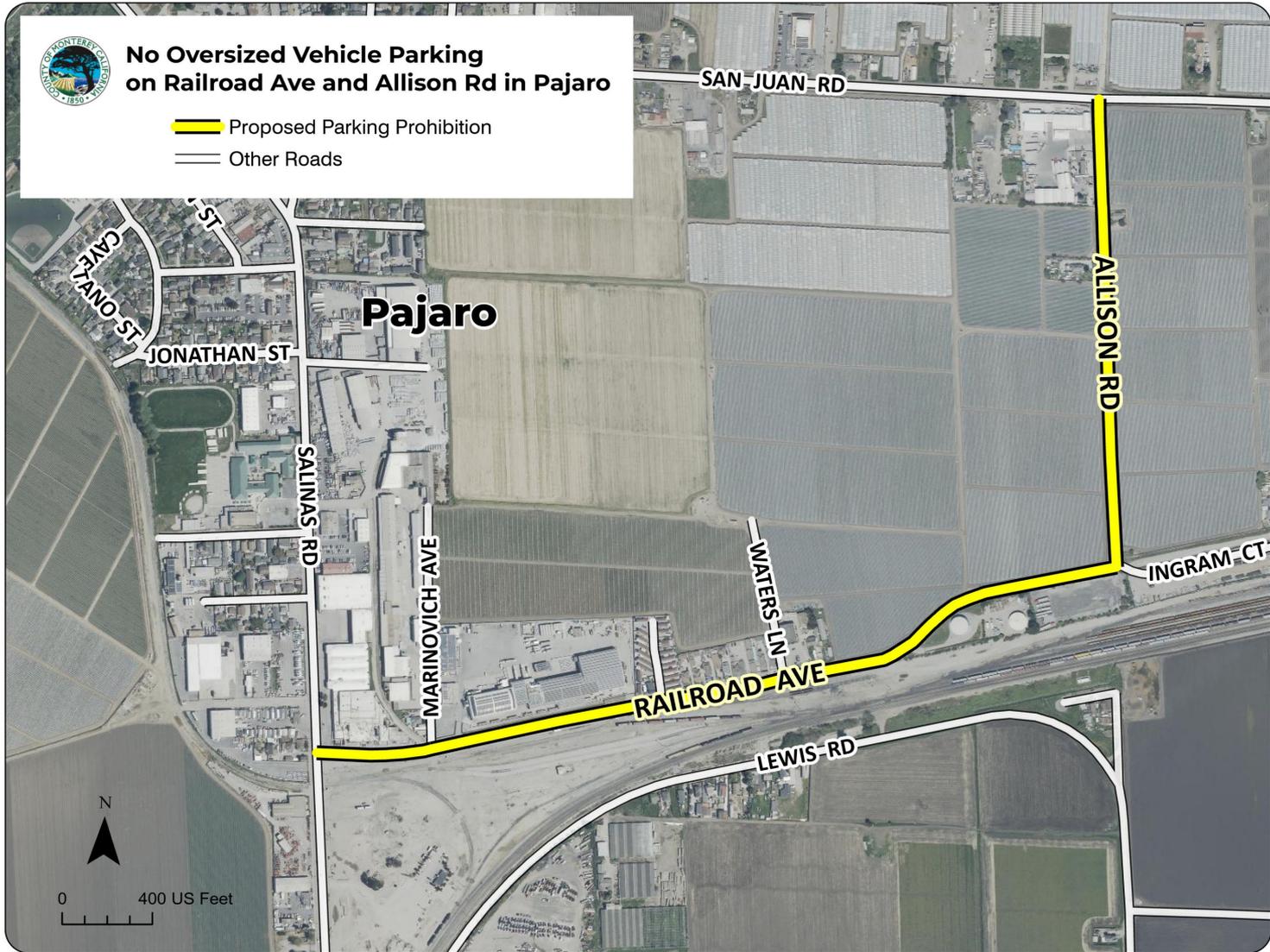
Board Referral No. 2025.11



# Presentation Overview

- Background
- Proposed Ordinance
- Recommendations
- Questions/Comments

# Location Map



# Background

- Board Referral No 2025.11
  - Homeless individuals are living in recreational vehicles along this road without appropriate services.
    - Roadside parking of recreational vehicles on Railroad Avenue has created a consistent and increasing public health and safety concern for the community and businesses of Pajaro.
    - Unhoused persons living in recreational vehicles along this road without appropriate services are causing disruptions for residents and businesses, crime, traffic hazards caused by parked vehicles blocking travel lanes, and the illegal dumping of trash and refuse.
    - Seeks to adopt an ordinance to prohibit recreational vehicles parking on the entirety of Railroad Avenue, establish a tow-away zone, and authorizing the immediate removal of vehicles

# Background

- November 4, 2025 Board Meeting
  - Heard 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
  - 1<sup>st</sup> reading of ordinance
  - Return with status update of connections to services, and explore expanding prohibition to all roads in Pajaro

# Progress Since 1st Reading

- Connecting with services
  - Visited the encampment on February 4th to examine the scope of the problem. We counted 9 RVs and was able to speak to inhabitants of 6.
  - Of the 6 encounters, only one person identified themselves as being a Monterey County resident; the others claim to be from Watsonville. This is in line with MCSOs assessment of registration of the vehicles.
  - Most of them appear to be strawberry field workers and lost their homes due to their inability to sustain rent in the off-season. One person is on disability, and one person works at a local market.

# Progress Since 1st Reading

- Connecting with services
  - Santa Cruz County is working with one gentleman with a minor child enrolled in a local college prep school and has this family on track for housing. He is a senior citizen.
  - Counted about 7 children - some of the occupants openly told us, others we discovered from outreach workers or other people living in that area. All of the children go to school in Watsonville.

# Progress Since 1st Reading

- Connecting with services
  - Santa Cruz County Office of Education reached out to Monterey County Office of Education to discuss their concerns about the number of homeless children going to school in Watsonville but living in Monterey County. HSI met with the two Offices of Education and Pajaro Valley Unified School District. The educational partners are working together to get these families enrolled in CalAIM, but that will not give them immediate shelter.

# Progress Since 1st Reading

- Connecting with services
  - Access Support Network (DSS' contracted street outreach program) has informed all individuals of available safe parking programs, one of which is in the City of Watsonville.
  - No shelter or existing safe parking program has the capacity to accommodate large RVs in their parking lot currently.
  - The population noted it would also pose a financial burden on them to transport their children (or go to work) from Salinas/Marina/Monterey to the Pajaro Valley.
  - **Note: Chinatown Navigation Center is closing, and those clients are being prioritized at the SHARE Center and in Coordinated Entry further complicating the issue.**

# Progress Since 1st Reading

- Explore expanding the prohibition to more roads in Pajaro
  - While data is limited since the previous Board meeting, there is concern that a neighboring jurisdiction has enacted an ordinance stricter than this proposed County ordinance.
  - Consensus among law enforcement to expand the ordinance to more roads in Pajaro.

# Proposed Ordinance

- Add Section 12.28.013 to Title 12, Monterey County Code
  - “Oversized Vehicle” means a motor vehicle under CVC section 670 and meets one or more of the following criteria:
    - exceeds seven (7) feet in height; or
    - exceeds seven and a half (7 1/2’) feet in width; or
    - exceeds twenty-two (22’) feet in length; or
    - having a manufacturer’s gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand (10,000) pounds or more.
  - Removal of vehicles in violation of this prohibition shall be processed consistent with CVC section 22651, et seq. as may be amended from time to time.

# Recommendations

- Find that the adoption of the ordinance is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to sections 15301(c) and 15308 of the CEQA Guidelines; and
- Adopt an ordinance adding Section 12.28.013 to Title 12 of the Monterey County Code to prohibit oversized vehicle parking 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.

Questions or Comments?

