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Department of Transportation

CITY OF SACRAMENTO

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Parking Services Division  
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June 3, 2004

City Council  
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING FEE REPORT-BACK (B-26)**

**LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT:**

Citywide, all districts

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This report recommends that the City Council adopt the attached resolution directing staff to conduct community outreach concerning a proposed residential permit parking fee and report back within ninety days with recommendations.

**CONTACT PERSON: Howard Chan, Parking Services Manager, 808-7488**

**FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: June 15, 2004**

**SUMMARY:**

Sacramento's residential parking permit program is a successful program which seeks to balance neighborhood livability in downtown and midtown neighborhoods with the need for an adequate parking supply. The program helps to alleviate parking shortages in neighborhoods caused by long-term commuter parking, providing the opportunity for residents to park near their homes -- particularly during the daytime.

Residential parking permits are currently issued free of charge in the City of Sacramento. This means that the program does not recoup all of its costs. As part of the Sacramento Organizational Assessment Project (SOAP), residential permit parking fees were introduced as a possible new revenue source. With Council's support and direction, any excess revenues from this program could be used to fund a broad range of programs, including public safety, parks and recreation, and other services and activities.

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During the May 18, 2004 Department of Transportation budget hearing, the City Council requested additional information on this potential revenue source. Requested information included:

- Number of residential permits currently issued within Sacramento;
- Number of visitor permits currently issued within Sacramento;
- Permit parking fee information from other California cities;
- Cost incurred by the City of Sacramento to provide these permit services; and
- More information on abuse of the permit program.

This report provides this information, as well as a residential permit parking fee structure for Council's consideration. Council is asked to direct staff to conduct community outreach regarding residential permit parking permit issuance and fees and report back within ninety days.

**COMMITTEE/COMMISSION ACTION:**

None.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

History

Like many cities, Sacramento has a parking space shortage in some residential neighborhoods caused by all day, on-street commuter parking. To ease the problem, a residential permit parking program was established in May, 1979. At that time, a \$5 permit fee was proposed to help offset the cost of the program; however, the fee was not adopted.

Residential permit parking provides preferential parking for residents by imposing parking regulations in neighborhoods, from which residential vehicles are exempted by displaying a residential parking permit. The United States Supreme Court has ruled such programs to be constitutional if their objectives are the health, safety, and welfare of the neighborhood. Preferential parking programs that have been implemented do effectively reduce the problem of commuter parking.

In June, 1995, City staff worked with the Neighborhood Association Advisory Group (NAAG) to streamline the residential permit parking designation process to make it more customer-friendly.

Objectives

Residential permit parking promotes specific social and environmental objectives in order to enhance the quality of life by reducing the number commuter vehicles in residential areas. These objectives are to:

- Reduce air pollution, noise, traffic hazards, and litter;
- Preserve the residential character of affected neighborhoods; and
- Provide access for residents to their homes without unreasonable burden.

The program's operational objectives are to:

- Help enhance the livability of residential neighborhoods;
- Prevent all-day non-resident parking;
- Reduce neighbor parking congestion;
- Prevent the misuse of permits; and
- Recover operating costs as much as possible.

### Data

The City has eighteen permit parking areas that regulate over 25,000 parking spaces (574 sq. blocks). There are over 15,000 households in these areas. Permits are currently renewed every two years. Residents may receive a permit for each vehicle that is registered to them at an address within the permit parking area. In addition, each household is entitled to either one or two visitor permits depending on the permit area. The following permits are issued annually:

• Residential permits (decal)	11,500
• Visitor permits	12,800
• Temporary permits	7,700

As Sacramento continues to grow, non-resident parking continues to be a concern for neighborhoods. More neighborhoods are requesting protection from unwanted parking congestion. Parking regulations are also being enforced later into the evenings.

### Permit Abuse

Sacramento's residential permit parking program has been impacted by abuse and misuse. Parking enforcement officers use both historical patterns and tips from residents to guide their abuse enforcement. Since 1990 when data is first available, 562 citations have been issued for misuse of visitor permits, totaling \$26,539 in fines. Since 1990, 464 citations have been issued for permits on vehicles other than assigned, totaling \$13,968 in fines. Staff believes there is very likely more abuse than is reflected in the citation totals during certain time periods and in certain neighborhoods. Staff also believes that implementing a permit fee structure would act as a financial deterrent to those who might misuse the permit program.

### Other Cities

Staff contacted other cities throughout California to gather data about their permit parking programs. City representatives were asked to provide fee information as well as effective methods implemented to guard against abuse.

Annual residential permit fees ranged from no fees in Burbank, Monterey and San Luis Obispo to

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\$30 in Berkeley and Long Beach. Attachment A details the fees charged in other cities. A summary is as follows:

Berkeley	\$30	Long Beach	\$30	San Diego	\$14
Beverly Hills	\$17	Monterey	\$0	San Francisco	\$27
Burbank	\$0	Oakland	\$25	San Jose	\$25
Culver City	\$12	Redondo Beach	\$10	San Luis Obispo	\$0
Davis	\$10	Riverside	\$10 pending	Santa Rosa	\$5
Hayward	\$25/2 permits				

Program Costs

It is estimated that \$738,000 in revenue is generated from over 31,000 citations written annually for permit parking violations. However, it costs \$1 million to operate the program, including thirteen full time parking enforcement officers (includes one FTE Account Clerk II to help in administering and renewal of permits). The annual net cost of the program is approximately \$268,000 (Attachment B).

Fees

Implementing residential and visitor parking permit fees would recover annual program costs, and could also lead to less misuse of the program. **Staff recommends maintaining the current two-year renewal period, and implementing a fee of \$10 for residential permits and \$20 for visitor permits.** Staff is not recommending an annual renewal option due to past customer feedback on this issue. As seen in Attachment C, implementing this proposed fee program could result in a small annual overage (projected to be about \$3,000 at this time), which could be used for other General Fund services and programs with Council's support and direction.

If a parking permit fee program is implemented, staff estimates there would be a 20% reduction in the number of residential permits issued and a 30% reduction in the number of visitor permits issued.

Community Outreach

With Council's support and direction, staff would begin work with the offices of the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and neighborhood directors to determine the most effective means to provide information to affected constituents and obtain comment. A staff report summarizing community outreach and response as well as recommendations will be brought back to Council within ninety days.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

It is estimated that the net cost of the permit parking program is \$268,000. This cost includes the addition of one position -- an FTE Account Clerk II to help in permit administration, accounting, and renewal.

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**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

This report concerns ongoing administrative or maintenance activities which are not for purposes of a Department of Transportation construction project and do not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378 (a). These activities are, therefore, not subject to the requirements of CEQA guidelines 15060 (c).

**POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:**

This recommendation is consistent with the City's Strategic Plan and goal of the City Council to implement organizational improvements.

**ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:**


Any goods and services will be purchased in accordance with established City policy.

Respectfully submitted,



*for* Howard Chan  
Parking Services Manager

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS  
City Manager

Approved:



Marty Hanneman  
Director, Department of Transportation

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FEES FOR OTHER CITIES

City	RPP	Residential Permit Fee	Visitor Permit	Temp. Fee	Comments
Berkeley	Y	\$30/yr	\$2/1day 20max/yr \$20/3 day 3 max/yr	NA	Other Permits Annual Merchant \$100 Annual in-Home Care \$30 Community servicing Facility \$40 North Berkeley Senior Center \$1
Beverly Hills	Y	\$17/Yr 3 max Hang Tag	Na	NA	
Burbank	Y	No charge	\$20 replacement	NA	
Culver City	Y	\$12	\$0	NA	Cite for no permit
Davis	Y	\$10	\$8.50 4 max		\$225 for misuse
Hayward	Y	\$25/2 permits Add. Permits \$10	\$10 Replacement		
Long Beach	Y	\$30/yr 3 max.	\$30/yr 1 max	Free 7-day limit	
Monterey	Y	\$0	\$0 2 permits max	NA	Valid only on block where resident lives
Oakland	Y	\$25/yr \$15 less than 6mos.			
Oceanside	Y	\$10/ea			Good for 3 years
Redondo Beach	Y	\$10 ea			\$35 fine each day for abuse
Riverside	Y	\$0			Currently no charge, proposal for \$10/ea
San Diego	Y	\$14 each	\$14 1 per address	\$7.50 ea 2week limit Max 2 at a time	
San Francisco	Y	\$27/yr \$13.50 less than 6 mos. \$3 transfer fee 4 permit max.	\$10 for 2 weeks \$20 for 4 weeks \$30 for 6 weeks \$40 for 8 weeks	\$10 for 2 weeks \$20 for 4 weeks	Other Permits: Caregivers, co. vehicles, contractors, vanpools, military, etc.
San Jose	Y	\$25 ea 3 permits max,	\$25 ea max 2 /resident 1 non-resident	Single use 14 days no charge \$25 special permit	
San Luis Obispo	Y	\$15 1 <sup>st</sup> replacement replace, \$25 2 <sup>nd</sup> replacement			Can only cite for no permit \$35
Santa Rosa	Y	\$5 1 <sup>st</sup> application, 3permit max			\$25 misuse, permit voided

## SACRAMENTO PERMIT PARKING COSTS

Revenue			
Parking citations 02/03	31,588		
% collected	77.96%		
Citations collected		24,626	
\$ Per citation		<u>X \$35</u>	
		\$861,910	
State fee \$5 x cites collected 24,625		\$123,125	
RPP revenue			<b>\$738,785</b>
Expenses			
Salary & Benefits			
2 FTE Typist Clerks		\$92,800	
12 FTE Enforcement Officers		\$614,400	
1 FTE Enforcement Supervisor		\$55,600	
.5 FTE Parking Investigation		\$25,000	
.25 FTE Program Specialist		<u>\$23,200</u>	
		<b>\$811,000</b>	
Equipment			
Vehicle capital costs		\$70,000	
Annual costs		<u>\$17,300</u>	
		<b>\$87,300</b>	
Services supplies			
Admin Overhead % to permit parking		\$7,639	
Printing costs		\$17,000	
Enforcement overhead % to permit parking		<u>\$31,555</u>	
		<b>\$56,194</b>	
Total Expenses			<u>\$954,494</u>
Existing Net Program Cost			-\$215,709
Add'l cost to administer fee program			<u>\$52,000</u>
1 FTE Account Clerk			
<b>Total Net Program Cost</b>			<b>-\$267,709</b>

ATTACHMENT C

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Revenue

Proposed permit fees

Residential permits (11,500 permits x 80% x \$10) \$ 92,000

Visitor permits (12,800 permits x 70% x \$20) 179,200

\$ 271,200

Citations

738,785

Total revenue

\$ 1,009,985

Expenditures

Labor, equipment, supplies

1,006,494

Program net surplus

\$ 3,491

**RESOLUTION NO.**

ADOPTED BY THE SACRAMENTO CITY COUNCIL

ON DATE OF \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION DIRECTING STAFF TO CONDUCT COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING ISSUANCE  
AND FEES AND REPORT BACK**

**Whereas** the City of Sacramento finds that it is in its best interest to provide public information and obtain comment on a proposed residential permit-parking fee.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO THAT:**

The Parking Services Division is to work with the offices of the Mayor, City Councilmembers, and neighborhood directors to provide community outreach regarding residential permit parking permit issuance and fees and report back within ninety days.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK

**FOR CITY CLERK USE ONLY**

RESOLUTION NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_

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# **Department of Transportation**

## **Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back**

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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

Operational objectives of the program are to:

- Help enhance the livability of residential neighborhoods
  - Prevent all-day non-resident parking
  - Reduce neighbor parking congestion
  - Prevent the misuse of permits
  - Recover operating costs as much as possible
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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

Implementation of fees for residential parking permits:

- Follows up on Council-approved “SOAP” idea
  - Recoups GF costs of successful program
  - Reduces fraud and abuse
  - Increases customer service
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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

## Proposed Permit Fees

- Maintain the current two-year renewal period with a fee of \$10 for residential permits and \$20 for visitor permits
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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

Residential permit annual fees in other cities:

□ Long Beach	\$30	Berkeley	\$30
□ San Francisco	\$27	Oakland	\$25
□ San Jose	\$25	Beverly Hills	\$17
□ San Diego	\$14	Culver City	\$12
□ Davis	\$10	Redondo Beach	\$10
□ Oceanside	\$10	Santa Rosa	\$ 5
□ San Luis Obispo	\$ 0	Burbank	\$ 0
□ Riverside	\$ 0	Monterey	\$ 0

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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

Visitor permit fees in other cities:

- Annual
  - Long Beach      \$30      San Jose      \$25
  - San Diego      \$14      Davis      \$ 8.50
  - Culver City      \$ 0      Monterey      \$ 0
  - Other
  - Berkeley      \$20 per 3 days
  - San Francisco      \$10 per 2 weeks, 8 weeks max
  - Burbank      \$20 per replacement permit
  - Hayward      \$10 per replacement permit
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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

## Revenue Assumptions

- Charging a permit fee will reduce the number of permits issued
  - Assume 20% fewer residential permits and 30% fewer visitor permits will be issued
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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

## Proposed Annual Revenue Calculation

Residential permits	
11,500 permits x 80% x \$10 =	\$ 92,000
Visitor permits	
12,800 permits x 70% x \$20 =	<u>179,200</u>
Total estimated permit revenue	\$271,200

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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

## Statement of Revenue & Expenditures

### Revenue

Proposed permit fees     \$271,200

Citations                     738,785

\$1,009,985

### Expenditures

Labor, equip, supplies     1,006,494

Program net surplus             \$     3,491

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# Residential Permit Parking Fee Report-Back

Recommendation - - Adopt resolution:

- Directing staff to conduct community outreach on proposed fees
- Report back within 90 days summarizing community response and providing recommendations