



**CITY OF SALINAS
COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

DATE: NOVEMBER 7, 2017
DEPARTMENT: PUBLIC WORKS, TRANSPORTATION & TRAFFIC DIVISION
FROM: ANDREW EASTERLING, TRAFFIC ENGINEER
TITLE: PARKING RESTRICTIONS IN CHINATOWN

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

A motion to approve a Resolution designating “**NO PARKING OR STOPPING**” along East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, and along Bridge Street between E Lake Street and Market Way.

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommended that the City Council approve a Resolution for the designation of “**NO PARKING OR STOPPING 10:00PM TO 4:30AM**” in Chinatown along East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, and along Bridge Street between E Lake Street and Market Way.

BACKGROUND:

Additional streets are requested to be designated “No Parking or Stopping” in the Chinatown Area. The Salinas Police Department requested the restrictions to help control illicit activities in the area. The City has already designated most streets in the Chinatown area as such in the past for similar reasons.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Salinas Police Department contacted Public Works staff and expressed desire to restrict parking along the southern side of East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, and along Bridge Street between E Lake Street and Market Way. Police Department officials are concerned that this street is constantly being used to conduct drug dealing and other illegal activity. The Police Department believes the availability of unrestricted parking is creating an environment that helps enable illegal activity. A further explanation of the Police Department’s concerns and specific issues related to the area are included in the attached letter.

The Police Department believes that by installing parking restrictions along East Lake Street between Bridge Street and Soledad Street, drug dealers will no longer be able to loiter overnight at this location. The requested parking restriction will be consistent with other areas of Chinatown

where Police Department reports there is less criminal activity. This engineering treatment may help to hinder drug dealing and other criminal activity in this area.

This new request adds Bridge Street and a portion of East Lake Street (Soledad to Bridge Street) to other streets in Chinatown already marked “NO Parking or Stopping”.

Prior to the Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting, staff sent notices to the available mailing addresses to segments of Chinatown located on E Lake Street, Soledad Street, Bridge Street, E Rossi Street, California Street and N. Main Street. Staff received two comments back after noticing the neighborhood and staff has been reaching out to work with the stakeholders who responded since the Traffic and Transportation Commission meeting.

In addition, the Community Development Department expressed concern with the parking restrictions since it may affect the use of on-street parking by future housing development. These restrictions are meant to stabilize conditions and street parking can be restored as needed to encourage redevelopment in Chinatown.

The Downtown Community Board, the City’s partners in redeveloping Chinatown, also expressed concern with the potential of the restrictions to move the associated crime problems on California Street. In discussion with the Board, Public Works staff may consider a preferential permit parking program but this will have some costs for tenants or property owners in the area and will require evening parking enforcement. Public Works staff will be working with the Police Department in the following weeks to monitor conditions on California Street after implementation of the parking restrictions. If undesired conditions are confirmed on California Street, staff will review the considerations for further controls on California Street.

The Traffic and Transportation Commission considered this request at their September 2017 meeting and voted in favor of the Police Departments’ request.

CEQA CONSIDERATION:

The City of Salinas has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15301, Class 1) because parking controls and restrictions are within the scope of operations of existing streets.

STRATEGIC PLAN INITIATIVE:

Strategic implementation of the installation of “NO PARKING OR STOPPING” zones supports Council goals of Quality of Life.

FISCAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The estimated labor and material cost to install “**NO PARKING OR STOPPING**” signs on the posts along East Lake Street and Bridge Street is estimated at \$ 700.00. Sufficient funding is available in the current budget to fund said sign installations.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution
- Site Plan

PD Request
Street View

RESOLUTION NO. _____ (N.C.S.)

A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING NO PARKING AND NO STOPPING ALONG EAST LAKE STREET (BETWEEN BRIDGE STREET AND SOLEDAD STREET) AND ALONG BRIDGE STREET (BETWEEN EAST LAKE STREET AND MARKET WAY) BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 10:00 PM AND 4:30 AM

WHEREAS, the Salinas Police Department requested the aforementioned parking and stopping restrictions to support Police Department operations to control illicit activities in the area; and

WHEREAS, the request extends similar existing restrictions on adjacent streets implemented for similar reasons; and

WHEREAS, the Salinas Traffic and Transportation at their September 2017 meeting considered the request and recommend the same to the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salinas has determined that the project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Section 15301, Class 1) because parking controls and restrictions are within the scope of operations of existing streets;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salinas City Council, in support of Salinas Police Department operations in Chinatown, hereby designates “NO Parking and NO Stopping between the hours of 10:00 PM and 4:30 AM” on the following street segments and limits:

Along East Lake Street (between Bridge Street and Soledad Street); and

Along Bridge Street (between East Lake Street and Market Way).

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of November 2017, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

APPROVED:

Joe Gunter, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia M. Barajas, City Clerk