

New Resident Parking Ordinances for Downtown Bolinas 11.5.23

Marin County Coastal Permit Hearing on November 16, 2023

The County of Marin plans to sunset the current Measure X parking ordinance in November. For those who live on or near Brighton Ave or Wharf Road you should have received a notice from the County of Marin regarding a zoning hearing scheduled for November 16 for the new parking ordinances that the County is proposing in its place. The Marin County Department of Public Works (DPW) has submitted their plan for a Coastal Permit which would be decided at the 11/16 hearing.

*The following summary of the plan has been prepared by the volunteer members of the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD) Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee established in November, 2019. The DPW submittal is found in the link below. **PLEASE NOTE THAT AN UPDATED AND REVISED DPW SUBMITTAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MEETING AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE LINK BELOW ON 11/9/23***

https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/projects/bolinas/countyofmarindpw_cp_p4237_b0

Now on the Table – Marin County Offers New Parking Ordinances

What is now on the table is the culmination of almost four years of discussion among Marin County departments, Supervisor Rodoni, the Bolinas Community Public Utility District (BCPUD) and members of the community about how to put something in place that would be more effective than Measure X to manage the impact of the high volume of visitors on downtown Bolinas streets. This new program is not exactly as conceived when this process first began. What can be done in Bolinas related to parking ordinances is very restricted by the Coastal Commission's focus on beach access as well as the Sheriff's legal restraints limiting their ability to enforce. The proposed plan by the County is structured in such a way so that the ordinances can be enforced and with little, if any, impact on those who are currently unhoused living in their vehicles. County policy per the Sheriff's office, is to not criminalize being unhoused. The proposed ordinances offer several community benefits helping to assure parking turn over, access and public safety on our downtown streets, while there is more to do to continue to build upon this needed step.

The plan removes the Measure X parking restrictions from the town of Bolinas. In its place the County of Marin offers these ordinances:

Permit Parking Program

A permit program is offered to households on the residential side of Brighton Avenue from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. For Wharf Road it is offered south from the Museum to the beach. It does not extend beyond those boundaries. Access to overnight parking is provided to residents in the project area by requiring non permitted vehicles to vacate parking on the residential side of the

street nightly from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. BCPUD will issue the permits. There is no fee for the permits. They are limited, non-transferable and there are no guest permits. Residents and/or guests without a permit are asked to park off street on their property or on the “non-residential” side of the street.

The permit program was described in detail by Supervisor Rodoni and Lt. Heather Rock from the Marin County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) at a January, BCPUD Board meeting. The permit program objective, as stated in the submittal is to, “increase parking turnover support access to the public beach and for homeowners and residential visitors to park near the residence.” The high volume of visitors coupled with extended stays of vehicles parked downtown contribute to the limitation of street parking availability during the day.

a. Brighton Avenue - Most of the planning for implementation of the permit program centered on Brighton Avenue where there is ample parking on the non-residential side where the county park is located. Input from Brighton Avenue residents occurred in May 2022 when every one of the households on the odd numbered side of Brighton Avenue (and one even numbered residence) was contacted. Of the 28 contacted, 21 responded to the poll and 95% agreed with the plan. Poll results are shown on the BCPUD website with the May 10, 2022 meeting minutes of the Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee. Since the inception of the planning process in December, 2019, all BCPUD Committee meeting minutes and presentations outlining the planning process are found on the bcpud.org website.

b. Wharf Road – For Wharf Road the County plan shows that households living south of the Museum (to the beach) are eligible for a permit and the concurrent night restriction on parking. DPW has recently clarified that similar to the plan for Brighton Avenue, the non-residential area of Wharf Road - the hill side of the street closest to the beach and the frontage of the College of Marin Field Station - are excluded from the permit restriction. Further discussion with residents and DPW on this small portion of the street is pending prior to implementation.

c. Vehicle Length Parking Restrictions:

Brighton Avenue: Vehicles longer than 22 feet are to be restricted on the non-residential side (County Park side) of Brighton Avenue from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. This is essentially similar to Measure X with specificity to a definition of a large vehicle for enforcement purposes.

Wharf Road: For this street, the ordinance is to be in place at all times from the Museum south to the beach where on this short stretch the road begins to significantly narrow and dead ends at the beach making it difficult for vehicles to turn around. Pedestrians walk on the street as vehicles attempt to park as there are no sidewalks.

There is no vehicle length or overnight vehicle restriction on Wharf Road from the Museum to the Brighton Avenue intersection where there are commercial activities and multi-family housing units.

Proposed New Downtown Parking Ordinances - Find out More

11/7/23

November 8th at 6 p.m. - At the Bolinas Civic Group (BCG) meeting with Supervisor Rodoni. There will be a Community Conversation hosted by BCG at the Community Center at which Supervisor Rodoni will briefly describe the program. The meeting will also be available on zoom. Bolinascivicgroup.org

November 9th at 4:30 p.m. - At the BCPUD Resident Permit Parking Plan Committee Meeting. The zoom link will be posted on the meeting announcement in the *Hearsay* and on *Next Door* on November 6. You can send a note to boparking2022@gmail.com and/or bcpud@bcbpud.org with the subject line, "Parking" to get zoom link or other details. Planning Committee members include Bruce Bowser, Al Minvielle, Chuck McParland, all residents of Brighton Avenue and Sherry Hirsch, Wharf Road resident.

November 15th at 7:30 p.m. - At the BCPUD Board of Directors meeting, in person or on zoom. The agenda is not yet set. Bcpud.org

November 16th at 10 a.m. - The County of Marin hearing at 3501 Civic Center Drive, Rooms 328/330, Administration Building, San Rafael. We don't know if it is streamed. More details will be available at the meetings listed above. And in the link below. REVISED SUBMITTAL ON THE LINK AVAILABLE ON 11/9/23.

https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cd/divisions/planning/projects/bolinas/countyofmarindpw_cp_p4237_b
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