

BOLINAS COMMUNITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

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MEMORANDUM

TO:	Board of BCPUD Directors
FROM:	Georgia Woods, General Manager
RE:	<i>Discussion on District Policy for Approving Speed Bump Installations in the Public Rights-of-Way on the Gridded Mesa</i>
TO:	November 19, 2025

Purpose

This memo is intended to scaffold Agenda Item 07 and provides context regarding the installation of speed bumps on the Gridded Mesa. As BCPUD and Bolinas Fire Protection District have undertaken more road repairs, we have received increased inquiries from residents about slowing traffic on newly improved roads.

Current Language in Ordinance 30 that Indirectly Speaks to Speed Bumps:

Public Right-of-Way (ROW) regulation is governed by **Ordinance 30**, as amended by multiple ordinances, including 33 and 37.

Ordinance 30 defines an **obstruction** as: *Any obstacle, natural or artificial, which has the effect of hindering, obstructing, or preventing the normal and customary use of a right of way by the public, either of normal customary travel or of the drainage of rainwater according to the Mesa Drainage Map mentioned in paragraph III herein.*
(as amended by Ordinance 33).

Further, Ordinance 37 specifies: *Any irregularity exceeding four (4) inches in height or depth as measured against a straight span of ten (10) feet anywhere along or across a road is considered an obstruction, unless otherwise shown.*

Research from BCPUD staff has determined that this **4-inch/10-foot standard** was intended to allow for speed bump installation without classifying them as obstructions, provided they meet these specifications.

What BCPUD is Currently Telling Residents Requesting to Install Speedbumps:

Under current ordinance language, **installation of speed bumps does not require an encroachment permit**, as long as the speed bumps conform to the specifications above. Residents may install speed bumps in front of their property without Board review or office approval, provided they comply with Ordinance 30.

Future Direction:

Our long-term goal is to **streamline and clarify the process** for all work in the ROW—including road maintenance, mailbox installation, and speed bumps—by requiring a simple, cost-free encroachment application through the BCPUD office. This will ensure consistency, transparency, and proper recordkeeping.

When we undertake a repeal-and-replace of Ordinance 30, we will recommend language that explicitly addresses speed bump installation standards and formalizes this streamlined approach. Until then, we will adhere to the current ordinance.