



No Soliciting and/or Custom Signs – Installation at Select Freeway Exit Ramps

Public Works Department

Transportation Committee
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BACKGROUND

1. No Soliciting signs may be utilized by public agencies within California to prohibit soliciting and panhandling in accordance with:
 - a. California Streets and Highway Code; and
 - b. California Vehicle Code (CVC).
2. These signs serve as notification of the regulations at specific locations where such activities may be deemed a nuisance and/or unsafe.



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CALIFORNIA STREETS AND HIGHWAY CODE

California Streets & Highway Code Section 225.5 :

1. States no persons shall display, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise vend or attempt to vend any merchandise, footstuff, or service within any vista point or safety roadside rest area; and
2. Also specifies no person shall solicit money within any vista point or safety roadside rest for any purpose.



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CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE (CVC)

CVC Section 22520.5 :

1. Prohibits solicitation, the display, sale, offering for sale, or vending of any merchandise or service while being wholly or partly within any of the following:
 - a. Right-of-way (ROW) of any freeway, including any on or off ramp, or roadway shoulder within the ROW;
 - b. Any roadway or adjacent shoulder within 500' of a freeway on or off ramp; and
 - c. Any sidewalk within 500' of a freeway on or off ramp when vending or attempting to vend to vehicular traffic.
2. First violation is an infraction, second a misdemeanor.



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CALIFORNIA VEHICLE CODE (CVC) CONTINUED

CVC Section 22520.6 :

1. Prohibits any person from engaging in any activity within a highway roadside rest areas or vista point prohibited by rules and regulations adopted pursuant to Section 225 of the Streets and Highways Code; and
2. First violation is an infraction, second a misdemeanor.



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EFFORTS BY OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES

1. City of Upland:
 - a. Collaborated with a local private group to develop an education campaign aimed at discouraging panhandling through the installation of "Say No to Panhandling" signs;
 - b. Obtained Caltrans encroachment permits and installed signs at select freeway exit ramps; and
 - c. Caltrans subsequently requested to change signs to standard No Soliciting S24(CA) signs which is currently in process.



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EDUCATIONAL SIGN SAMPLES



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STANDARD NO SOLICITING S24(CA) SIGN

No Soliciting Sign:

1. References Streets and Highways Code Section 225.5;
2. Frequently utilized at freeway ramps; and
3. Supported by Caltrans.



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EFFORTS BY OTHER LOCAL AGENCIES (CONTINUED)

2. City of Redlands:
 - a. Adopted an ordinance prohibiting aggressive solicitation;
 - b. Restricts intentional physical contact with or the blocking or interfering with the safe and free passage of an occupied vehicle without consent in the course of soliciting, asking, or begging; and
 - c. Violations are punishable as misdemeanor or infraction at the discretion of the City Attorney; and
3. City of Menifee:
 - a. Adopted an ordinance prohibiting certain forms of solicitation including aggressive solicitations and at specific locations including in driveways, on median strips and freeway ramps, and from persons in vehicles;
 - b. Has 3 existing S24(CA) signs in place at select freeway exit ramps; and
 - c. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor and may receive administrative citations.



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CITY OF RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE

1. RMC Section 9.04.010 prohibits certain forms of aggressive solicitation;
2. Restricts solicitation from persons in vehicles, in driveways, and on median strips and freeway ramps;
3. Purpose to protect public health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Riverside; and
4. Violations are punishable as a misdemeanor or infraction, chargeable at the City Attorney's discretion.



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BENEFITS OF NO SOLICITATION SIGNS

1. Deter solicitation and panhandling activities at freeway exit ramps;
2. Facilitate enforcement of violations;
3. Discourage motorists from stopping and/or obstructing traffic to buy from vendors or give to panhandlers;
4. Create a less intimidating more enjoyable environment for residents and visitors; and
5. Enhance safety for pedestrians and motorists.



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OPTION FOR CUSTOM EDUCATIONAL SIGNS

1. Combined use of both No Solicitation and custom educational signs at freeway exit ramps may target both the panhandlers and the motorists who give and thereby contribute to such activities.
2. Though the custom educational signs are not enforceable they discourage giving to panhandlers and giving to legitimate local homeless facilities or charities.



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RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee approve installation of:

1. Standard No Soliciting signs at designated SR-60, I-215, and SR-91 freeway exit ramps within the City to prohibit soliciting and panhandling and/or;
2. Custom educational signs at designated SR-60, I-215, and SR-91 freeway exit ramps within the City to discourage motorists from giving to panhandlers.



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