

City of Mission Viejo
COUNCIL POLICY



SUBJECT	RES. NO.	POLICY NO.	EFF. DATE	PAGE
Placement of Temporary Signs in the Public Right-of-Way at Arterial Intersections for 45 days prior to any Government Agency Election.	16-09	0600-06	10-12-16 3-22-16	1 of 2

BACKGROUND

The City of Mission Viejo’s current sign regulations do not allow for the placement of temporary signs in the public right-of-way. Any such sign placed in the right-of-way is removed by the City or landscape contractor and is not returned to the owner. This can be wasteful and expensive, and at the same time involves significant City resources to fairly monitor and enforce sign violations. The City Council considered this topic at a recent public meeting and directed staff research designating specific areas where temporary signs could be legally placed for a limited time period prior to an election.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to identify specific locations within the City right-of-way where temporary signs can be placed and specify criteria, including the timeframe, for such placement.

POLICY

1. Temporary signs are permitted on City right-of-way locations at major arterial roadway intersections only.
2. Signs and sign placement shall respect and not cause damage to the site, including all landscaping and irrigation. Signs shall not be affixed to any utility at the site, including hydrant, street or traffic sign, utility pole, wire, box, or any landscaping including tree, shrub, tree stake or guard.
3. Temporary signs may be erected no sooner than 45 calendar days prior to any government agency election. Said signs shall be removed within 5 days after the election.
4. Signs shall not exceed 4 square feet in area, and a height of 4 feet.
5. The proposed sign shall not obscure fire hydrants, traffic signs or traffic signals, block motorists' line of sight, or otherwise inhibit or interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic as per City Standard Plan 315, “Intersection Sight Distance.” In addition, temporary signs shall not block any safety sign or notice, or the City’s Message Board.
6. No flags, pennants, balloons, or other attention-attracting devices shall be displayed in conjunction with the sign.
7. To facilitate the removal of abandoned signage, support structures and attachment materials the City seeks submittal of a refundable deposit in the amount of \$240. This sum represents the cost to remove the outdated or abandoned signage. This deposited amount will be returned to the depositor after 5 days following the election, upon request and representation that the signage has been removed. If the deposit

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is not requested to be returned, or if the signage, including support structures and attachment materials is not removed, the monies will be applied to cover the cost of removal.

If the amount identified above is not able to be deposited due to lack of funds, the City, in its reasonable discretion will lower or waive the deposit. In all instances, the community expects the signage, in its entirety, to be removed by the person posting it or the group or person(s) which the signage speaks for.

8. The City makes no representation about the conditions, from time to time, of the identified signage locations and hereby puts all persons on notice that the condition of the property is uncertain and all persons' use the property is at their sole risk. The City notes that soil conditions, traffic conditions, weather conditions, and the acts of third parties may put person(s) and property placed pursuant to this Policy at risk and further, that the person(s), groups and supporters of any person, group or entity does so at their own risk and, for themselves, their heirs and assigns, releases, waives, indemnifies and hold harmless the City, including its elected officials, officers, staff, employees, and contractors from all damages, awards, payments, claim or reimbursement, of all types and nature, that may, from time to time, arise while utilizing this Policy and the rights accorded herein and pursuant to this Policy.

9. All campaign signs, including signs addressing political campaigns, issues or candidates shall print on the sign, or otherwise reasonably advise the City, of all information related to or required by the California Secretary of State or any other agency with jurisdiction over the same. In no instance, shall mandatory campaign law, or State law, be waived or exempted from disclosure upon signs.

Amendment history

October 12, 2016 - Revised the map to eliminate the quad area at the northeast intersection of La Paz Road and Marguerite Parkway. Temporary signs at this location obscure the City's electronic message sign and thus shall not be permitted. In addition, staff further modified the map to correct a mapping error at the intersection of Muirlands and Los Alisos Boulevards.