



County of Santa Cruz

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March 7, 2000

Agenda: March 14, 2000

Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street, Room 500
Santa Cruz, California 95060

Re: Revised Road Bump Policy

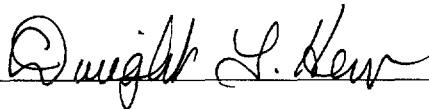
Dear Members of the Board:

On February 15, 2000, your Board considered the proposed revised Road Bump Policy. At that time, some concerns were expressed regarding the effect if signers of petition for the installation of road bumps were to change their position on the proposal. The attached revised Road Bump Policy includes additional language which is highlighted to expressly provide that signatures on a petition may not be withdrawn or rescinded so as to affect the adequacy of the petition. The revised Road Bump Policy provides that the purpose of the Petition is to determine whether there is sufficient support for the road bump proposal to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. Other provisions of the Policy provide for a noticed public hearing and a discretionary decision by the Board of Supervisors whether it is in the public interest to approve the Road Bump proposal.


IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board adopt the attached revised Policy For Placing Speed Control Devices (Road Bumps) On County Maintained Road And Within County Service Areas.

Very truly yours,

DWIGHT L. HERR, COUNTY COUNSEL



RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

Attachment: Policy

cc: Public Works Department

**POLICY FOR PLACING PHYSICAL SPEED CONTROL
DEVICES (ROAD BUMPS) ON COUNTY MAINTAINED
ROADS AND WITHIN COUNTY SERVICE AREAS**

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for approving the placement of road bumps on County maintained roads and within County Service Areas to reduce vehicle speeds and to reduce through traffic on residential streets and on streets adjacent to parks and elementary schools. The Board of Supervisors retains the discretion to determine whether the placement of road bumps on a particular road or street will be in the public interest.

USE AND CRITERIA FOR INSTALLATION OF ROAD BUMPS:

The use of road bumps like any other engineering device must be used with discretion. The unchecked use of this device may be in conflict with the achievement of other local objectives. The indiscriminate use of road bumps may create a problem that is worse than the problem it is intended to solve. The following guide lines are established for evaluating requests for the installation of road bumps:

Factors supporting the installation of road bumps on a street:

1. The street has either a high incident of speed related accidents, or a high incident of citizen reported speeding problems.
2. The street meets the prima facie requirements for a residential 25 mph speed limit.
3. The street is adjacent to an elementary school or a park.

Factors opposing the installation of road bumps on a street:

1. The street is an arterial or collector street.
2. The street provides the sole access to a regional facility (i.e., fire station, post office, transfer station).
3. The County Director of Public Works or his or her designee determines:
 - A. The street grade is excessive.

- B. The grade or alignment does not provide sufficient stopping sight distance.
- C. The route is an important emergency vehicle access route.
- 4. The street is a truck route, or Transit District bus route.
- 5. The street carries over 2,000 vehicles per day.
- 6. The road bumps would cause considerable diversion of traffic to other residential routes.

PETITION PROCESS:

Requests for the installation of road bumps are to be initiated through a petition process. Prior to circulating a petition to have road bumps installed, the person(s) interested in filing a petition ("proponents") shall hold a neighborhood meeting to discuss road bumps and to determine if a significant amount of interest exists in favor of the installation of road bumps. The proponents shall request a representative of the Public Works Department to attend the meeting, and shall mail notice of the meeting to affected residents pursuant to an address list obtained from the Public Works Department of the residences within the primary and secondary affected areas of the proposed road bumps. The primary area is defined as the fronting properties along the section of road that has been determined to have a speeding problem and where the road bumps would therefore be installed. The secondary affected area is defined as the properties off the primary road served by any side street, road, or alley that intersects with the primary road and has principal access through the section of road proposed to have road bumps installed. The petition shall be prepared by the Department of Public Works and then circulated for signatures by affected residents. The petition shall recite that signers are residents with authority to sign the petition; that the petition is for the purpose of determining whether there is sufficient support for the road bump proposal to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for its consideration; and that signatures may not be withdrawn or rescinded so as to affect the adequacy of the petition for that purpose. The petition will include a map of the primary and secondary affected road bump areas, and the proposed number and location of the road bumps. A letter from the fire agency serving the area and the local school districts (when said district provides bus service on the affected street) stating their position regarding road bumps on the affected streets shall be submitted with the petition.

The petition will not be processed for submission to the Board of Supervisors unless the Director of Public Works or his or her designee determines that the petition is signed by a sufficient number of residents to indicate the following level of support:

Assigning two points to each parcel improved with a residence within the principal affected area and one point to each parcel improved with a residence within the secondary affected area, the petition is signed by more than 50% of the total points calculated by the Department of Public Works for the primary and secondary affected road bump areas. Any resident of a parcel within the affected areas shall be deemed authorized to sign the petition on behalf of that residential parcel.

NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

If the Director of Public Works or his or her designee determines that the petition has sufficient signatures for further processing, the Director of Public Works or his or her designee will submit the petition to the Board of Supervisors with a report evaluating and making a recommendation regarding the proposed road bumps. The proponents shall supply the Public Works Department with addressed stamped legal size envelopes for the Department's use in mailing to all addresses in the affected areas a Notice of Public Hearing on Proposed Road Bumps, which shall give notice of the public hearing to be held by the Board of Supervisors on the road bump petition. The authority of the Board of Supervisors to approve or deny the road bump proposal based on the public interest will not be affected by any alleged deficiency in any signatures on the petition, or by any other alleged insufficiency of the petition.

IMPLEMENTATION OF ROAD BUMPS SUBJECT TO PAYMENT OF COSTS:

Implementation of road bumps will commence only after adoption of a resolution by the Board of Supervisors at a public hearing approving the installation of the road bumps, and after payment of a cash deposit for the property owners' estimated share of the cost of the road bumps. One half of the cost of the installation shall be borne by the property owners requesting the devices on County maintained roads, while property owners requesting such devices on County Service Area roads shall assume the full cost.

DESIGN STANDARDS:

The design of road bumps for use in Santa Cruz County is based on guidelines established from studies conducted by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee. Exact location along approved routes and design of the devices shall be determined by the Public Works Department. The standards for construction of road bumps shall be as shown in the County of Santa Cruz Design Criteria approved by the Board of Supervisors.

REMOVAL:

Road Bumps are subject to future modification or removal by the Board of Supervisors if deemed in the best interest of the County. Such action must be approved by resolution of the Board of Supervisors following a public hearing. Payment for removal shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors based on the reason for removal. Unless the Board of Supervisors finds there are exigent circumstances requiring the removal of road bumps, no action to remove road bumps may be initiated until at least one year has passed from the date the bumps were initially installed.

MAINTENANCE:

Road bumps on County maintained roads shall be maintained by the Public Works Department. Road bumps on County Service Area roads shall be maintained by the County Service Area.