

From: [Timothy Maier](#)
To: emailjamieperkins@gmail.com
Subject: Further Response to Letter of Concern Regarding Oversized Vehicle Ordinance (OVO) Stakeholder Outreach Group Meetings and Safe Parking Program
Date: Thursday, February 1, 2024 1:39:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Dear Jamie,

Thank you for your feedback and for taking the time to reach out to City staff regarding your concerns related to the City's Oversized Vehicle Stakeholder Group Outreach process.

Hopefully, you received my voicemail message left yesterday afternoon and the email message sent yesterday, inviting you to attend the Stakeholder Outreach Meeting and indicating that response to your concerns would be forthcoming.

Please find below the City's response, in **red text**, to your comments received on 1/30/24. We have endeavored to address your concerns and to provide information regarding City actions taken to address the questions raised and matters described. We appreciate your feedback and hope that you may be willing to continue participating in the City Stakeholder Outreach Group.

Please note that your feedback has been, and will continue to be, taken very seriously in the City's review of implementation of the OVO and Safe Parking Program.

Thanks,

Tim Maier

Senior Planner

tmaier@santacruzca.gov

831-420-5129

Dear Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my concerns and frustration regarding the stakeholders group. I attended the meeting in October 2023 and, unfortunately, am left feeling unheard as none of my questions or comments were reflected in the meeting notes. Nor have I been directly contacted to address my concerns.

Firstly, I want to clarify that I did not volunteer for the position and am unsure of how I was chosen. Despite this, I was willing to contribute and do my part. However, I want to emphasize that I am not willing to be a token for the city of Santa Cruz merely for appearances. It is crucial that the guidelines

set forth by the Coastal Commission are genuinely followed and not just given the illusion of compliance.

I unfortunately arrived late to the meeting in October. This was a disadvantage because I had no clue who was friend and who was foe. I also felt as if I represented the problem at hand. Putting my feelings aside I actively participated in the conversation, addressing the concerns of myself and others living in RVs affected by the ordinance. Some of the questions, comments, and concerns I raised include:

1. The significant concern of some that black water is possibly being dumped by people living in RVs and the absence of a waste disposal location on the Westside.

Concerns regarding improper disposal of blackwater was addressed twice in the Outreach Meeting notes of 10/17/23. Additionally, this comment was recorded, with a City response/potential solution matrix that was provided to the Stakeholder Group and discussed at length at the group’s second meeting on 11/15/23, as follows:

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
				Create a place to dump blackwater on the West side	Staff is currently assessing viable locations to install a publicly accessible, centrally located, RV dump station.

2. Challenges for individuals working later than 12 am or before 5 am in moving their RVs.

A comment to this effect, and the City response, was effect was logged in the Stakeholder Issue and Response Matrix that was provided in advance of and discussed at length at the 11/15/23, as follows:

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
		Concerned about being ticketed when I work late and cant move RV before the parking ban times.	Please connect directly with the Safe Parking program for possible solutions.	Have an app to count real time parking.	Not clear if this is for real time safe parking.

3. Concerns about the safety of my car when I park it to drive my RV to a safe parking lot, fearing police ticketing or towing.

This comment was logged in the previously-discussed matrix and then discussed at the 11/15/23 Stakeholder Meeting, as follows:

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
Tier 3 is better because people don't have to move overnight and can focus on their other issues.		Where do you park your car when you drive RV to? The parking lot?	Those currently participating in the overnight and long-term program (Tiers 2 and 3) that have a standard vehicle as well as an OV have primarily been parking their second vehicle in front of their OV. Others have utilized street parking for their standard car.	Make Local business connections to help support people to be more stable	Outside the scope of city services at this time. However, City code (6.36.030(a)(3)) allows for businesses to authorize people to reside in up to three separate vehicles on their property, so long as they meet various sanitation, nuisance, and other criteria. No permit is required.

4. I asked if it the common practice of police giving 72-hour tow notices to everyone parked on a street. My understanding is those notices are to be used after a vehicle has been parked unmoved for a documented, set amount of days or a vehicle is clearly abandoned or poses a hazard. Instead police just put notices on every vehicle on the streets where RVs park. That was done on Delaware the day of the meeting.

This comment was logged in the matrix, as follows, and an officer who was at the 10/17/23 meeting extended the same offer:

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
		Today police ticketed every car and RV on Delaware with a 72 hr tow warning (abandoned vehicle). Is it common practice to issue	We would like to hear more. Please share any specific concerns with our department		

		mass tickets based on where you park.	directly so we can assess service delivery and provide a specific response.		
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Please also note that if you believe that SCPD officers acted in an unlawful or improper way with respect to the handling of abandoned vehicles (an issue that is distinct from Oversized Vehicle Ordinance enforcement), you may initiate a citizens' comment or complaint. As noted on the City of Santa Cruz's website:

"A comment or complaint may be filed if you have comments or concerns about specific Police conduct or actions. Any aggrieved party, friend, victim, family member or other third party who witnesses an incident thought to merit a comment or complaint can file. If a comment or complaint is filed, it is forwarded to the Professional Standards Unit and a supervisor will be assigned to conduct a formal investigation. The final investigation is forwarded to the Police Auditor for review. The investigation is reviewed for thoroughness, objectivity and to ensure that the evidence supports the finding. A citizen complaint is separate from any civil or criminal action. Once the investigation is complete, you will be notified of the results.

Comments or complaints about Police conduct or services should be submitted by mail, in person, or by fax to the Police Department using a Santa Cruz Police Department Citizen Comment Form. These forms are available at the Santa Cruz Police Department, the Independent Police Auditor's Office, or the City Clerk's Office." See: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/police/transparency-portal/independent-police-auditor>

5. The need for the city to provide restitution to those who received and paid tickets and/or impound fees. Also to the those who lost their vehicle impounded due to fines. The City of Santa Cruz did not have the right to issue the tickets or install the signs without prior Coastal Commission approval. The City of Santa Cruz chose to install the signs and enforce the parking restrictions for years knowing they were violating the coastal commission act. The signs were finally removed a few months prior to the OVO approval.

- My brother and I spent over \$10,000 getting our RVs out of impound. We paid over \$26,000 for the 2 RVs and to lose them would have been a great financial loss. When we got them back they had been ransacked and anything of value had been taken. This included the batteries, the keys, a solar generator, the brain from one RV, tools, electronics, jewelry and personal items.

The tow yard's response was the items weren't listed on their paperwork. We are not the only ones who this happened to.

- When this was read at the meeting I was told by the woman conducting the meeting she would talk to me later about it. Then she quickly went on to the next comment. She never spoke to me about it.

Staff recollection indicates that a more concise version of the above comment was read at the first Stakeholder Outreach meeting. The notes do not reflect this comment, as the comment did not

relate to the current or future OVO, and it was noted at the meeting that the specific situation of the participant (or the author of the letter) could be discussed by connecting directly with the Police or with others at the meeting to talk through the specifics.

Please also note that individuals can request administrative review of a parking citation by following the directions on the citation, which are also described on the City’s website. (See here: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/public-works/parking-services/parking-enforcement> .)

Again, if you believe that the SCPD unlawfully impounded your car, you may initiate a citizen’s comment or complaint with the SCPD, as noted above. A Government Claim Form for damages may also be submitted to the City Clerk. (See Government Code sections 810-996.6.)

6. The lack of information on resources available to help RV owners get current on registration and insurance.

This comment was logged in the aforementioned matrix, provided before and discussed at the 11/15/23 Stakeholder Group meeting, as follows:

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
		Sanitation services not reflected in safe parking contract.		Provide resources to services to assist with registration and tickets	Both the AFC SafeSpaces and City-funded long-term (Tier 3) safe parking programs have flex funds to assist participants (and those on the wait/interest list) with these services. At the current time, there are no funding sources, nor staff capacity to provide these services throughout the region.

7. I also addressed the issue of littering, acknowledging that while it is a concern, it is often caused by a few individuals rather than the majority. Lack of places to dispose of trash doesn’t help the situation. It’s not as if there is a place to take a single bag of garbage and pay to dispose of it.

A comment related to littering was logged in the matrix that was provided in advance of and discussed at the second stakeholder meeting on 11/15/23.

What I Like	City Response	What are my concerns	City Response	Solutions	City Response
		SCPD not having the manpower to successfully enforce regarding litter.	PD has an enforcement plan and will have the resources to enforce the OVO.	Provide people with detached trailers or working motor homes	RVs are expensive to buy and maintain, and the end result would still be people living on the streets, in areas not designed for human habitation. The City Council has made a policy decision to prioritize a model intended to try to move people into shelter/housing. Any change to that policy would need to be made at the Council level. Staff is happy to relay this suggested policy change to the Council.

In November when I received the minutes from that meeting in October not one of my concerns were addressed or recorded.

I really thought this was supposed to be a community working together to find a way to coexist. In my opinion the city of Santa Cruz is only holding these meetings because they have no other choice.

In the past few months, I have witnessed numerous RVs being towed away, leaving people on the side of the road with their belongings, often in tears and losing hope.

The behavior of some of the police officers was unprofessional and malicious. I witnessed officers standing around laughing and making jokes as people's homes are getting towed away. I have yet to hear of anyone being given information about available resources. This process has left many in difficult situations.

Comments or complaints about Police conduct or services should be submitted by mail, in person, or by fax to the Police Department using a Santa Cruz Police Department Citizen Comment Form. These forms are available at the Santa Cruz Police Department, the Independent Police Auditor's Office, or the City Clerk's Office." See: <https://www.cityofsantacruz.com/government/city-departments/police/transparency-portal/independent-police-auditor>. Please also see the response

listed under item #4 for additional information.

Although service connection was not an element of the Overnight-only program (services provision and wrap around services is included in the 24/7, long term program), Overnight only program participants were surveyed for their service needs and when possible, staff have directed participants to appropriate resources. For example, many enrollees were given the date, time, and location of the Service Navigation Workshops that happen twice weekly at Housing Matters.

Now tents are replacing RVs on Delaware and surrounding streets.

How could that possibly be better for the environment? Where do they think many of these people now living in tents without a bathroom will go?

Thus far, it has not been the City's experience that an increased number of people are camping in the sensitive habitat areas around Delaware/Natural Bridges/Antonelli Pond.

What is funny about this whole thing is the people who are making the biggest fight against the RVs are in their warm homes in a comfy bed sound asleep between 12 am and 5 am. When they go to work in the morning the RVs are there and when they come home the RVs are still there.

The only things that have changed is more gas being burned to drive the RVs to the safe parking lots and back.

And life for people who are working and trying to better their situation gets harder. You can't sleep well for fear of oversleeping and getting more tickets.

I am exhausted all the time.

You can't enjoy a late night out or a night away because the RV has to be moved.

Panic sets in at any sign of a mechanical problem.

Twice a day everything has to be secured for the move.

I recently parked in a "safe parking lot" at depot park. The Santa Cruz police advised us to go there.

I received an important phone call at around 8am that I had to take. When I was finished I stepped out of my RV to find both my RV and car had received \$43 tickets for not paying for parking.

The meter maid was still there and I tried to explain what happened and she didn't care. She just said go get a parking permit.

Would it have been so hard for her to knock on the door and let us know it was after 8am and we needed to move? She clearly knew we didn't have a parking permit and were not aware of the strict enforcement of the hours. Also note that there were maybe 3 cars in the parking lot and there were 2 other RVs still parked there.

One of those RVs belongs to a single father with a baby. He told me he also received a ticket that day.

He told me he has received 4 tickets since parking in the "safe parking lot" and fears having his RV towed due to tickets.

He told me of an encounter he had with a parking enforcement worker.

He said it was just after 8 am and his son was still in bed sleeping. He told this to the worker. The worker told him he needed to move and told him to make sure the baby was safe (not in a car seat)

and to just drive slow. He also started counting how many parking spaces he was taking up and threatened to ticket him for each parking space but only issued the ticket for one space. He also told him that he was at risk of getting kicked out of the safe parking program.
Seems to me the safe parking lots are the first order of business for the parking enforcement office.

I realize they need to clear the RVs out to provide parking for the public. I think knocking on the door first and letting them know they need to move would be a better approach. Possibly giving out warnings notices and then a ticket after 3 warnings have been issued for staying past 8 am. would be fair.

As noted above, the City has procedures for challenging / seeking administrative review of parking tickets. Complaints about actions of the parking control officer in issuing the ticket can be considered through the administrative review process.

These are some issues I would have shared at the stakeholders meeting.
I just refuse to waste my time. The City of Santa Cruz is totally biased. They have their agenda and these meetings are just a formality.

When we had the wild fires in 2020 everyone showed concern and support to those of us who lost our homes.

Affordable housing is hard to find on a good day in Santa Cruz. Then add 100s of people homeless from the wild fires and a pandemic and eviction moratorium to the mix.
For many living in an RV was the only option. FEMA houses people in RVs all the time. Now we are looked at as a nuisance.

Environmental concerns are important. I agree. However, RV living leaves a much smaller carbon foot print than living in a house.
And I honestly have never seen any black water/waste dumped anywhere around here.

I read that the Coastal Commission is considering issuing over 4 million dollars in fines to Aptos home owners for blocking access to the beach.

The city of Santa Cruz took people's homes and just about everything they had to the dumps.
The city of Santa Cruz issued hundreds of thousands of dollars in citations.
They caused hundreds of people pain and stress. People not only lost their homes some lost jobs, pets and children.

They did all of this knowing what they were doing was a violation and therefore illegal.
Is the city above the law? This is not a victimless crime.

I think concern over beach access is nothing in comparison to the OVO. People had their homes taken by the City of Santa Cruz and you gave them the green light to keep doing it.

On December 4th I along with many others woke up to a \$50 ticket on my windshield. We were all under the assumption that the OVO would begin the evening of the 4th. Not at 12.01 am on the 4th. The City of Santa Cruz is practically gloating about issuing 200 tickets in the first month of the

OVO. That's \$10,000 in fines given to people who they know can't afford to pay them. That's not counting tickets issued in the "safe parking lots". This is just another tactic by the City of Santa Cruz to take more RVs/homes.

City staff and volunteers/workers from The Free Guide conducted extensive outreach in the weeks prior to December 4th, when the OVO was implemented. As a direct result of these outreach effort, the Overnight-Only (Tier 2) Safe Parking program had a significant increase in enrollments as word of the program spread. Per the Implementation Plan submitted and approved by the Coastal Commission, the first OVO citation issued to an individual would be waived as a subsequent form of outreach.

I know hundreds of people including myself who would like to be reimbursed and compensated for our losses. The City of Santa Cruz expects us to pay our tickets or risk having our RVs impounded. The the City of Santa Cruz should be forced to provide restitution to those they illegally ticketed. If it was an individual who knowingly committed an illegal act they would be fined, jailed and order to pay restitution.

As noted above, a process is in place for challenging the City's tickets and/or making claims against the City.

Santa Cruz is one of if not the most expensive place to live in the country. We should feel as if our government is looking out for the best interest of all of us.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my side on this matter.

Sincerely ,

Jamie P



Timothy Maier

Senior Planner

City of Santa Cruz | Planning and Community Development

809 Center Street, Room 101, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Main: 831-420-5110 | Direct: 831-420-5129

Email: tmaier@santacruzca.gov

Web: www.cityofsantacruz.com



From: Timothy Maier

Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 2:55 PM

To: emailjamieperkins@gmail.com

Subject: Response to Letter of Concern and Invitation to Join This Evening's Stakeholder Outreach

Group Meeting at 5 PM

Dear Jamie,

Thank you for your feedback and for taking the time to reach out to City staff regarding your concerns and with your feedback regarding the City's Oversized Vehicle Stakeholder Group Outreach.

Please note that staff are preparing response to your letter and will forward to you as soon as possible. Please note that the City has recorded your comments and discussed them at the following meeting, and I hope that it helps to demonstrate that the City does value your opinions on the OVO. With the next (and potentially final) Stakeholder Group meeting this evening at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall (Room 106, at the back of City Hall near the surface parking lot with solar panels), we hope you are able to join us. If you are unable to join in person, we can also provide you with a link to join online remotely.

Please contact me with any questions – my City cell phone number is 831-854-3610.



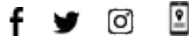
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From: Jamie Perkins <emailjamieperkins@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 1:58 PM

To: Lisa Murphy <LMurphy@santacruzca.gov>

Subject: OVO stakeholder feedback and public correspondence on planning commission agenda item 2

Dear Coastal Commission,

I am writing to express my concerns and frustration regarding the stakeholders group. I attended the meeting in October 2023 and, unfortunately, am left feeling unheard as none of my questions or comments were reflected in the meeting notes. Nor have I been directly contacted to address my concerns.

Firstly, I want to clarify that I did not volunteer for the position and am unsure of how I was chosen.

Despite this, I was willing to contribute and do my part. However, I want to emphasize that I am not willing to be a token for the city of Santa Cruz merely for appearances. It is crucial that the guidelines set forth by the Coastal Commission are genuinely followed and not just given the illusion of compliance.

I unfortunately arrived late to the meeting in October. This was a disadvantage because I had no clue who was friend and who was foe. I also felt as if I represented the problem at hand. Putting my feelings aside I actively participated in the conversation, addressing the concerns of myself and others living in RVs affected by the ordinance. Some of the questions, comments, and concerns I raised include:

1. The significant concern of some that black water is possibly being dumped by people living in RVs and the absence of a waste disposal location on the Westside.

2. Challenges for individuals working later than 12 am or before 5 am in moving their RVs.

3. Concerns about the safety of my car when I park it to drive my RV to a safe parking lot, fearing police ticketing or towing.

4. I asked if it the common practice of police giving 72-hour tow notices to everyone parked on a street. My understanding is those notices are to be used after a vehicle has been parked unmoved for a documented, set amount of days or a vehicle is clearly abandoned or poses a hazard. Instead police just put notices on every vehicle on the streets where RVs park.

That was done on Delaware the day of the meeting.

5. The need for the city to provide restitution to those who received and paid tickets and/or impound fees. Also to the those who lost their vehicle impounded due to fines. The City of Santa Cruz did not have the right to issue the tickets or install the signs without prior Coastal Commission approval. The City of Santa Cruz chose to install the signs and enforce the parking restrictions for years knowing they were violating the coastal commission act. The signs were finally removed a few months prior to the OVO approval.

- My brother and I spent over \$10,000 getting our RVs out of impound. We paid over \$26,000 for the 2 RVs and to lose them would have been a great financial loss.

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6. The lack of information on resources available to help RV owners get current on registration and

insurance.

7. I also addressed the issue of littering, acknowledging that while it is a concern, it is often caused by a few individuals rather than the majority. Lack of places to dispose of trash doesn't help the situation. It's not as if there is a place to take a single bag of garbage and pay to dispose of it.

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