

## John Franklin

1074 Cheltenham Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93105

Telephone 805 682 4245

email: [franklin@sbtower.com](mailto:franklin@sbtower.com)

12 Feb 2009

Thanks very much for the opportunity to comment on the parking situation in the Mission Canyon area. For some time now, I have been VERY concerned about parking, not only because of the hazard it produces for drivers and walkers, but in case of emergency, in some cases, it impedes the movement of emergency vehicles. This is particularly true in the following areas in order of seriousness:

Exeter (it is a main in and out route to the area)

Ben Lomond (many houses and pedestrian traffic)

Williams way (it appears people assume the street is one of their permanent parking areas)

Montrose (even "no parking" signs staggered on the road have failed to clear the road)

Parking on Tunnel road at the trail head is congested during week-ends and holidays.

Enforcement of posted parking regulations is spotty at best.

If people are going to park either their cars, those of their friends and/or permanent tenants, they need to park their cars on their own private property, and leave the road clear for cars to use while coming or going on their business. With the increased rental of rooms and illegal apartments in the area, congestion has led to making the roads into a long parking lot. If people are going to rent out rooms and apartments, they need to provide off street, on site parking for their tenants.

I have observed the dangerously parked cars for years, and have, in highly dangerous areas, marked where they were parking with marking paint on the pavement. I have also left notes on the dangerously parked cars, with limited or no success.

Some suggested steps to improve the situation:

1. Paint lines on the roads delineating the side of the road, and if any cars are parked over the line ticket them and/or have them towed.
2. Require that within 60 days of notification, any mail boxes, walls and shrubbery be removed from the public right of way.
3. Post no parking signs on all roads where there is no room to park, or there are hazardous conditions if parking is allowed.
4. Where available, make parking available on extremely wide parts of the road, such as lower Tunnel road. Remove no parking signs on parking area below intersection of Tunnel and Mission Canyon roads. Do not allow more than 24 hours parking in these areas. This will allow parking of oversize vehicles that are visiting the area.
5. Allow parking along the roadway if the vehicle is parked on private property and is off the road not causing a hazard.

6. Educate residents of the new rules, and point out that it is to their advantage to have safe egress and ingress to the area over roads with ability to allow two way traffic.
7. Do not make any roads one way. The roads, while not wide, are wide enough to allow two way traffic if the on street parking is restricted as suggested above.
8. Install signs indicating the rules along the roads in the area, so people won't be able to say they didn't know about the regulations.
9. To relieve the parking congestion on Tunnel road on week-ends, people should be encouraged to bicycle or hike to the area from lower parking areas. The strips that have been painted on the road are a big help. Unfortunately the enforcement concerning parking over the lines is poor at best. The area is seldom patrolled, and ticketing violators is a low priority. Usually a telephone call is necessary to get enforcement, and even then, the car is left not ticketed due to lack of personnel. More and larger signs should be posted along with additional patrols especially on the week-ends..

I would be willing to pay \$100.00 per year for controlling parking and assure efficient ingress and egress to the canyon. I feel strongly, however, that the suggestions above should be implemented in an effort to improve the current situation. Only if that fails, would I be in favor of a parking assessment.

It is unfortunate that when the lots were surveyed, they weren't made large enough to allow only on premise parking. That cannot be corrected now, but if people are going to have multiple vehicles, for whatever reason, they need to park them on their property, not on the public right of way which was set aside for transportation, not parking.

Please feel free to contact me for any additional information and if you need assistance in implementing action. I have lived in the area since 1937, and remember when none of the roads were paved, and parking was the least of the problems in the area.

Sincerely,

John P. Franklin