



PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY COUNCIL

May 11, 2015

To: Hon. California State Senators Robert Huff, Fran Pavley and Ben Allen

Via email:

Senator.huff@sen.ca.gov; cc junay.gardner@sen.ca.gov.
Senator.pavley@sen.ca.gov; cc kara.seward@sen.ca.gov.
Senator.allen@sen.ca.gov; cc sam.liu@sen.ca.gov.

Re: SUPPORT for Senate Bill 218 (Huff); in Natural Resources Committee 5/12/15

As the most broadly-based organization in Pacific Palisades, Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC) has been the voice of our community since 1973.

PPCC supports SB 218 which would end photo enforcement of stop signs by the Mountains Recreation Conservancy Authority (MRCA) within MRCA parklands. The legislative exception that MRCA carved out of the California Vehicle Code for itself several years ago was unwarranted and has been abused. This exception means that MRCA can install automated ticket issuing machines without measures required by the Vehicle Code including engineering studies, demonstration of need or any other justification for its stop sign photo enforcement. In fact, the two photo enforcement machines MRCA placed in Pacific Palisades' Temescal Canyon Gateway Park are at intersections with no history of accidents or injury and very little traffic. As a result, PPCC has received numerous complaints about erroneous enforcement by these machines.

The reason that local entities were originally forbidden under the Vehicle Code from making their own traffic rules was to eliminate speed traps used by small towns in the Central Valley to raise local revenue through the unreasonable issuance of tickets. It should be noted that even the U.S. Air Force was required to comply with the Vehicle Code in a notable case. No entity should be exempt from the reasonable requirements of the Vehicle Code.

Thank you for your consideration and anticipated support of SB 218.

Sincerely,

Christina Spitz

Christina Spitz
President
Pacific Palisades Community Council