



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

City Council Interoffice Communication

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members
From: Joe Carchio, City Council Member
Date: January 14, 2008
Subject: *H-ITEM FOR JANUARY 22, 2008, CITY COUNCIL MEETING - FREE PARKING FOR HYBRID AND ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES*

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

I propose that the City Council consider allowing hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles to park free of charge in city parking lots, parking structures, and on city streets where parking meters are present.

As the nation continues to experience depleting natural reserves, higher fuel prices, and increased greenhouse gas emissions, it is essential that the city be proactive and do everything possible to promote hybrid and alternative types of fuel that are cleaner-burning and create less pollution in our atmosphere. This is a major health issue for today and for generations to come. I am, therefore, requesting that City Council approve a resolution that would allow the public to park free of charge at city facilities including beach parking lots; metered street parking in business, residential and recreation zones; and Main Promenade parking structure as well as any future city-owned parking structures.

The city's parking revenues for lots, meters, and the parking structure total approximately \$7.4 million annually. The California Department of Motor Vehicles estimated that slightly less than 1% of the autos in the state are hybrids or alternative fuel and this percentage will continue to grow with new renewable energy sources and improved automotive technology. Based on 1%, it is estimated this could result in a short-term annual loss of approximately \$74,000 in city revenue. It is anticipated that the amount of lost parking revenue will continue to grow as alternative fuel vehicles become more popular.

Note: The state has already taken a similar step in allowing a maximum of 85,000 hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles with only a single occupant to drive in diamond lane/car pool lanes. That program which ends January 1, 2011 has reached the 85,000 limit and no other vehicles can be added at this time.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct the City Attorney to modify the current parking fee resolution to allow hybrid and alternative fuel vehicles to park in city lots, metered parking spaces, and parking structures free of charge.

xc: Paul Emery, Interim City Administrator
Bob Hall, Deputy City Administrator
Joan Flynn, City Clerk
Jennifer McGrath, City Attorney
Jim Engle, Director of Community Services

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