

City of Piedmont  
COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

---

DATE: September 18, 2023

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Rosanna Bayon Moore, City Administrator

SUBJECT: Consideration of Changes to Parking and Traffic on Guilford Road  
(Recommended CEQA Action: Exempt under CEQA Guideline Section 15301)

---

RECOMMENDATION

By a single motion, take the following actions with regard to the proposed modifications on Guilford Road:

1. Find the project exempt under California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) Guideline Section 15301 (existing facilities).
2. Adopt the attached resolution which implements changes to parking and traffic on Guilford Road and addresses public safety concerns for vehicular access.

BACKGROUND

City staff were contacted in Spring 2023 regarding a recent incident involving a Piedmont Fire Department emergency vehicle that was unable to access Guilford Road due to existing conditions associated with the width of the roadway, including parking on both side of the street. After discussion with City staff, residents provided a signed petition requesting that the City consider parking restrictions to the “odd” side of the roadway, and for the conversion of Guilford Road into a one-way street to facilitate improved accessibility. The petition was unanimously signed by all property owners on Guilford Road.

DISCUSSION

After consulting with various City Departments, Public Works confirmed the following:

- Piedmont Fire Department has experienced multiple instances when emergency response vehicles have been unable to gain access to Guilford Road.
- Solid Waste sanitation trucks have periodically been unable to access Guildford Road.
- Street Sweeping is impacted by the narrow roadway.

Based on these observations and recognizing the sensitivity of public parking, Public Works developed a plan for potential parking and traffic modifications. Outreach performed for this proposed plan included the following:

- Posting maps of the proposed modifications (Attachment B), along with public

notification information along Guilford Road.

- Mailing of a public notice to residents within a 500-foot radius of Guilford Road.
- Placement of information about the proposed modification on the City Projects portion of the website.
- Issuance of a press release regarding the proposed modifications.
- Dissemination of the proposed modifications to Piedmont Unified School District (PUSD) and its stakeholders.

In response to outreach efforts, Public Works received three emails regarding the proposed modifications. Two affirmed their support for the proposal, while the third expressed concerns about the loss of approximately 20 curbside parking spaces. To mitigate the impacts of the parking loss, City staff are proposing the following:

- Remove the parking restrictions for the 9 diagonal and parallel, “2-hour” parking spaces that were temporarily designated on January 17, 2023.
- Remove the parking restrictions for the 8 diagonal and parallel, “City Staff” parking spaces that were temporarily designated on January 17, 2023.

These 17 parking spaces are currently underutilized, and this action will provide teachers and students with access to additional parking that will help offset the impacts of the proposed parking and traffic changes on Guilford Road.

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

The recommended proposed action designates Guilford as a one-way travel street, eliminates approximately 20 curbside parking spaces on the odd-numbered side of Guilford street to allow for emergency and utility vehicle access, and mitigates the loss of parking by removing parking restrictions on the east side of Highland Avenue between Sheridan and Sierra Avenues. Because this action proposes relatively minor changes on an existing roadway where the changes do not establish a higher speed limit and will not result in increased use of the roadway, these minor changes are categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15301 (existing facilities).

### FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed striping and signage modifications can be implemented by utilizing the \$15,000 in funding from the approved Fiscal Year 2023-24 budget, under the Miscellaneous Repairs line item.

### CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW

The City Attorney has reviewed this staff report.

### ATTACHMENTS

- A. Proposed Resolution
- B. Map of Proposed Parking Space and Traffic Modifications on Guilford Road
- C. Map of Proposed Parking Space Modifications on Highland Avenue

By: Daniel Gonzales, Public Works Director

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_****A RESOLUTION MAKING PARKING AND TRAFFIC CHANGES GUILFORD ROAD**

**WHEREAS**, public safety considerations necessitate the use of the public right of way to facilitate the efficient and effective access on Guilford Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council acknowledges the challenges of accommodating parking needs in the Civic Center;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PIEDMONT AS FOLLOWS:**

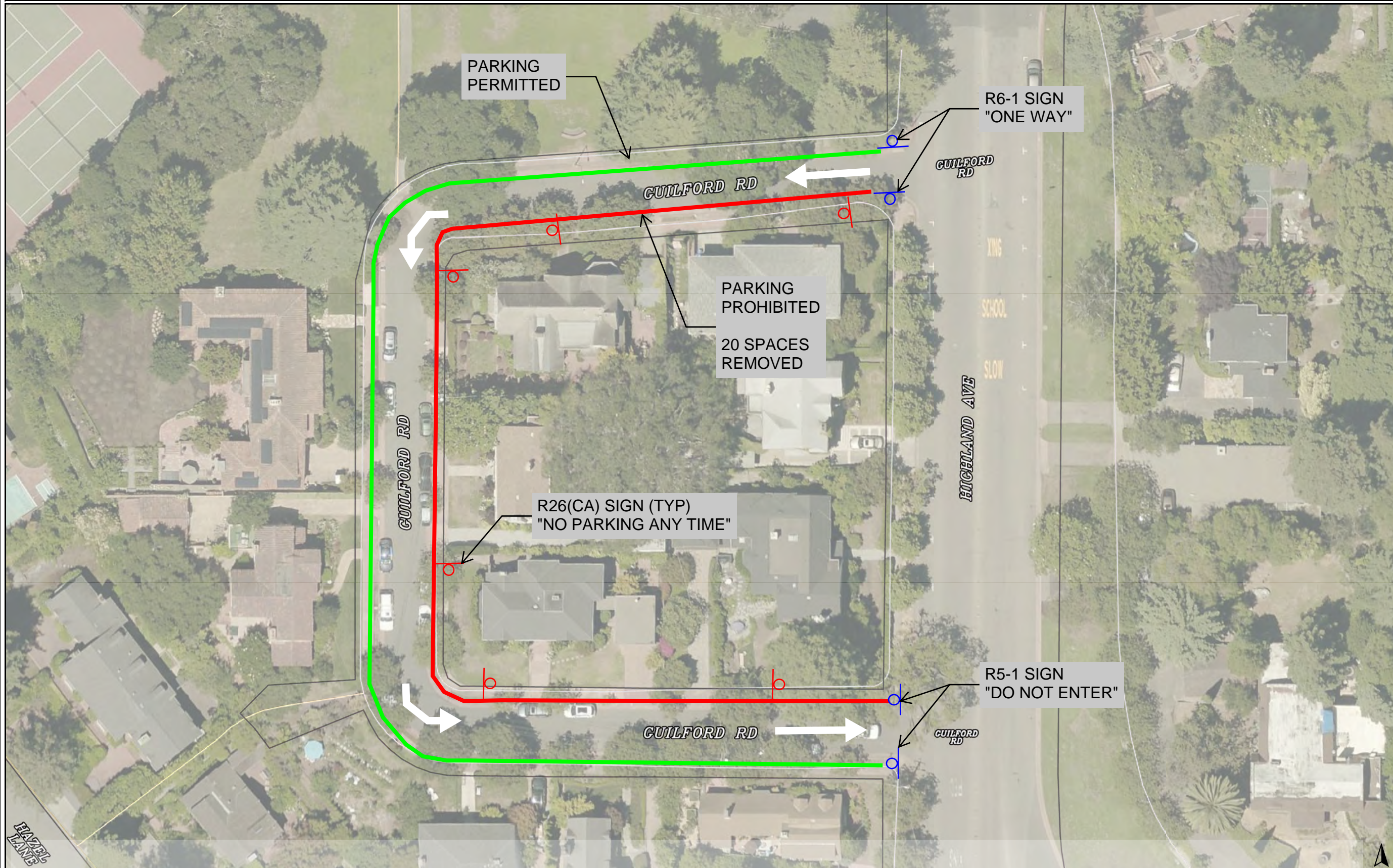
**SECTION 1.** Guilford Road is designated for one-way direction travel.

**SECTION 2.** Staff is directed to update the “Unlawful Parking Map” to reflect the elimination of parking on the “odd” numbered side of Guilford Road.

**SECTION 3.** Parking restrictions to the thirteen diagonal and four parallel parking spaces on the east side of Highland Avenue between Sheridan and Sierra Avenues are hereby removed.

[END OF RESOLUTION]





### Legend

Piedmont\_CA\_72523 (Map Service)

#### Planimetrics

- Existing Sidewalk
- No Existing Sidewalk
- Park Paths
- Retaining Wall
- Road Edge

#### Sign Types



R5-1



R26(CA)



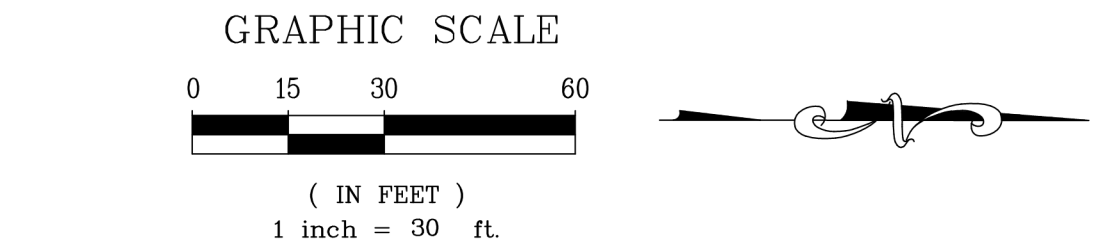
R6-1

Notes 1" = 50'

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION





**From:** [Roger Strauch](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Cc:** [Elene Manolis](#); [Julie Kulhanjian](#)  
**Subject:** Guilford Road One Way Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:06:30 AM

---

Some people who received this message don't often get email from rogerastrauch@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

**[EXTERNAL]** This email originated from an **external source**. Please use judgment and **caution** when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.



On Monday 9/18 you will consider our Road's proposal to convert to a one way street. Julie and I encourage you to accept this proposal on the grounds that it will fundamentally improve the safety and security of a small busy street adjacent to the center of our town.

Limiting parking to one side of our street and one way traffic will enable emergency vehicles to access all residences in the event a fire, medical, and security emergency. On a busy school or community event day or night we are a one narrow lane street. With parking allowed on both sides of the street, emergency access is either not always possible or is severely hampered.

Over the 26 years we have lived on Guilford, we have observed at least 3 scary incidents of a child or teenager being nearly hit by one of two cars traveling in opposite directions, competing for the single lane, swerving to avoid a crash into one another or parked car, only to then unexpectedly avoid hitting a kid crossing or obviously playing in a street with two 2 way blind turns!

Please help us avoid a tragedy. Our neighborhood is giving up parking spaces to help you, help us, and our fellow citizens.

Roger and Julie Strauch

**From:** [Elene Manolis](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** GUILFORD ROAD SAFETY  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 11:20:19 AM

---

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from elenemanolis@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

[EXTERNAL] This email originated from an external source. Please use judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Thanks to the City of Piedmont for making this process a very positive experience. Both Daniel Gonzales and Conna McCarthy have been supporters of making Guilford Road a safer street. Originally, it was firemen who came to my home for a non- emergency issue that suggested I contact City Council because they would be unable to navigate the narrow road in case of an emergency. Police, Fire, Scavenger Co, UPS, USPS all will benefit from a one way street, one side parking only, and have endorsed the plan.

With the current unrest about safety in our town, it seems this change would be rather straight forward and show the Councils' concern for citizen safety.

Thank you, Elene Manolis



**From:** [John Stock](#)  
**To:** [City Council](#)  
**Subject:** Guilford Road Proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, September 17, 2023 5:19:50 PM

---

**[EXTERNAL]** This email originated from an **external source**. Please use judgment and caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear City Council - We are writing in full support of the proposal to make Guilford Road a one way street and remove all street parking along one side of the street. We believe this will be discussed at a City Council Public hearing tomorrow, September 18th.

My wife and I have lived on Guilford Road at the corner of Highland Avenue across from the park for roughly 35 years. The street becomes very narrow when there are cars parked on both sides of the street, making it extremely difficult or even impossible for emergency vehicles to effectively or efficiently navigate the U shaped street in the event of an emergency. This of course creates a safety hazard for the residents here, and the community.

Over the years we have observed a number of near collisions and scraped vehicles as drivers try to make their way around the block, and have watched many service vehicles have to back out onto Highland once they have entered Guilford.

Thank you for considering this proposal. We believe it's passage would alleviate a significant safety concern, and is in the best interest of the community.

John & Peggy Stock

