



CITY OF LOS ANGELES
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2018

To: The Honorable City Council
c/o City Clerk, Room 395
Attention: Honorable Mike Bonin, Chair, Transportation Committee

From: Seleta J. Reynolds, General Manager  Department of Transportation 

Subject: **ENFORCEMENT OF ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION SPACES**

SUMMARY

This report requests the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to amend the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to authorize issuance of citations and vehicle towing for illegally parked vehicles at on-street and publicly owned off-street electric vehicle (EV) charging station spaces.

RECOMMENDATION

REQUEST the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that:

1. adds a new section and amends Section 80.76.2 "Civil Penalties," and Section 89.60 "Authority" of the LAMC to establish a base fine and late payment penalties for an EV parking violation; and
2. authorizes towing for unlawful parking at designated on-street and publicly owned off-street EV charging station spaces.

BACKGROUND

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) Section 22511 authorizes a local authority, by ordinance or resolution, to designate stalls or spaces in an off-street parking facility owned or operated by that local authority for the exclusive purpose of charging and parking a vehicle that is connected for electric charging purposes. Existing law also authorizes the removal of a vehicle from the designated space in an off-street parking facility if the vehicle is not connected for electric charging purposes. Despite the CVC allowing a local authority to enforce at an off-street facility, the City of Los Angeles has yet to adopt an ordinance to set the base fine for this violation. The CVC is silent on the designation and enforcement of on-street EV spaces.

As part of the City of Los Angeles 2017-18 State Legislative Program, the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) recommended amendments to the CVC Section 22511 to permit a local authority to designate stalls or spaces on a public street for the exclusive purpose of parking and charging EVs, and to enforce the use of those spaces for that purpose. On October 20, 2017, Governor Brown approved Assembly Bill No. 1452 to amend CVC Section 22511 to allow the designation and enforcement of on-street EV charging spaces.

DISCUSSION

In support of the Sustainable City pLAn, the Bureau of Street Lighting (BSL) and the Department of Water and Power (DWP), working cooperatively with LADOT, initiated programs to install hundreds of on- and off-street EV charging stations citywide. LADOT is responsible for setting the parking restrictions and ensuring that posted signs and pavement markings for all EV charging spaces on-street and at LADOT off-street facilities are in conformance with the guidelines and requirements set forth in the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

Parking enforcement is a critical component to ensuring space turn over and compliance with the posted parking regulations of the designated EV charging space. Enforcement may come in the form of a parking citation for EV vehicles that are not plugged in (charging) at these designated charging spaces or a citation and removal for non-EVs parked in the spaces.

CVC Section 40203.5, which governs how parking fines are set states “to the extent possible, issuing agencies within the same county shall standardize parking penalties.” Accordingly, LADOT reached out to Los Angeles County and several cities within the county. To date, only the City of Beverly Hills has an EV charging violation at off-street facilities for \$55. Other cities such as Santa Monica and West Hollywood would cite for “posted sign violation” or “failure to obey signage” for \$64 or \$58, respectively. Therefore, it is recommended that the fines be set similar to LAMC 80.56(e)1,2 “passenger zone and loading zone” violations with a base fine of \$58, with a late penalty of \$116, and second penalty of \$141.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The authority to cite and tow vehicles illegally parked at EV charging station spaces will yield additional parking citation revenue to be deposited into the General Fund. The citation revenue, while unknown at this point, may increase in the coming years with the citywide installation of EV charging stations planned by BSL, DWP and LADOT.

SJR:JK:KH:jdh