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HIGHER SPEED LIMITS FOR SOME MONTEREY STREETS

Monterey, CA – Speed limits on several street sections in Monterey are slated to be raised due to new regulations. The changes are taking place in communities across California because the state legislature has changed the way posted speed limits are calculated.

City traffic engineers now must take the speed 85% of drivers are traveling on a given section of roadway and round up or down to the closest 5 mph increment. That means an 85% driving speed of 33 mph rounds up to a 35 mph speed limit, while an 85% speed of 32 mph rounds down to 30 mph. Under the old system, traffic engineers could round speed limits down to the lowest 5 mph increment. So, even an 85% speed of 34 mph could be posted as a 30 mph speed limit.

The City of Monterey Traffic Engineering Division conducted extensive surveys of driving speeds on city streets, as required by the new state law, to determine the new speed limits. Most of the new speed limits on city street sections go from 25 to 30 mph. But there are a few street sections where speed limits will be raised by 10-15 mph.

The Monterey City Council will hold a public hearing to consider increases in speed limits on November 15th at Few Memorial Hall on 580 Pacific Street.

(more)

NEWS RELEASE

“We know that speeding is one of the top concerns of our residents,” said City Traffic Engineer Rich Deal. “Raising speed limits is not something we do easily, but the City of Monterey must comply with state and federal regulations.”

“People may think the City sets speed limits on its streets, but in fact, speed limits are governed by California state laws and the Federal Highway Administration,” said City Manager Fred Meurer.

All of the data collected by the Traffic Engineering Division is available for public review in the City Clerk’s Office at 580 Pacific Street. For more information, see the Agenda Report on this item, which is available through I-SEARCH Monterey.

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