



## **Eucalyptus Avenue Holiday Celebration FAQ**

**December 2021**

**Q: Holiday lights and decorations have been displayed on Eucalyptus Avenue for many years. Why has the City chosen to get involved this year?**

A: Over the past few holiday seasons, the City and the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office received an increasing number of complaints from the community regarding the impact of crowds on Eucalyptus Avenue during the holidays. In response to a record number of complaints in December 2020, the San Carlos City Council directed staff to conduct outreach to the San Carlos community to learn more about the impact of the light displays on the community.

The City's involvement this year is the result of direct input from the San Carlos community, input gathered at two community meetings, through an online community survey on SHAPE San Carlos, and several City Council meetings. The City most often heard that traffic, parking, trash, and a lack of restrooms were of concern.

**Q: What actions are being taken by the City?**

A: On September 13, 2021, the San Carlos City Council expressed a desire to see the light displays continue, as they benefit the community, and approved funding to address the most frequently heard community complaints.

The City Council Resolution included funding for:

1. Police and security staffing
2. Traffic control devices
3. Portable restroom facilities
4. Trash and recycling receptacles

The City has moved forward with all the actions items above, providing police and security patrols, traffic control and safety measures, and the delivery, servicing, and removal of portable restrooms and trash and recycling receptacles on Eucalyptus Avenue.

On October 11, 2021, the San Carlos City Council adopted a resolution to provide funding for an off-site parking plan to address local traffic concerns. Free off-site parking is currently available on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church (880 Tamarack Avenue), Brittan Acres Elementary School (2000 Belle Avenue), and Arroyo Elementary School (1710

Arroyo Avenue).

**Q: What opportunities were provided to residents of the San Carlos community to provide input and be involved in the decision-making process?**

A: Two community meetings were held on May 26 and June 8, 2021. Every community member in San Carlos was mailed an invitation postcard, inviting participation at either identical meeting, or to provide input through our SHAPE San Carlos online survey. The public is also continually invited to attend City Council meetings, and posting about the agendas are available to the public in advance. The City Council discussed this issue during four Council meetings in 2021.

**Q: What notice was given specifically to the residents of Eucalyptus, informing them of the actions being taken?**

A: Eucalyptus residents were notified of the Council's decision through a directly mailed letter on September 23, 2021. The letter included details of all measures being taken to alleviate the impacts of the Eucalyptus Avenue holiday celebrations. The letter also invited residents to reach out to the City should they want to meet with City staff as a group or discuss additional requests for help. No response was received.

Two additional letters were sent directly to Eucalyptus residents on November 23 and November 30, 2021, detailing the traffic control measures. Contact information was provided for residents with additional questions or information requests.

**Q: Why were portable restrooms determined necessary and why were they placed where they were?**

A: The City received many complaints over the years about visitors to the area urinating on private properties or knocking on doors to request access to a restroom. To address this issue, the City decided to deploy a portable restroom on the busiest times during the holiday season. The busiest times were determined to be Friday-Sunday starting the first week of December and the three days leading up to Christmas. All facilities and street closures will be removed on Monday, December 27. There was no public location, other than the street, in which to place the unit. Unfortunately, no permit was requested that would have allowed for us to work out a location on the street with residents. Therefore, it was determined that a mid-block location would be best, and nearest where there was a lot of activity. Once the portable restroom was deployed, the resident living nearest to it asked for it to be moved next door to another home he owned, which the City did so at its cost.

**Q: How can residents and others address the City Council to make changes to this policy going forward?**

A: The City Council will be reviewing the impact the City's actions at a Council meeting in 2022. Sign up for E-notify to receive Council agendas in advance so you can know in advance when Council will be discussing this issue. Sign up for E-notify or change your subscription preferences at

[www.cityofsancarlos.org/mysc](http://www.cityofsancarlos.org/mysc).

**Q: Has the City established new regulations concerning holiday lights?**

A: No, the City has not established any new rules.