



Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

MEDIA: RV permit questions - publishing deadline is October 31

10 messages

Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Tue, Oct 28, 2025 at 4:27 PM

To: "Press Office, Mayor (MYR)" <mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org>, "Thornhill, Jackie (DEM)" <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>, adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org

Cc: "Press, DEM (DEM)" <dempres@sfgov.org>

To Mayor's Office and DEM media liaisons,

I'm Yesica Prado, an investigative reporter with [El Tecolote](#). We are preparing an in-depth article on the impact of the citywide two-hour RV parking restriction, and publishing it before enforcement begins on November 1st.

To ensure accuracy and provide a complete picture for our readers, please respond to the following questions:

1. How many Large Vehicle Refuge Permits has the City issued as of October 28?
2. Given that hundreds of people may still be in the process of applying for a permit or undergoing an appeal, has the City considered extending the November 1 enforcement deadline? If not, why not?
3. For vehicles that are not mechanically operable, will the parking permit exempt them from parking enforcement? If not, what specific resources or pathways are available for residents who cannot move their RVs?
4. Through our reporting, we have identified several real-world situations where residents appear to be left out of the permit program. Does the City intend to make any exceptions or accommodations for the following scenarios?
 - a. A person lacks any of the requested documentation needed to appeal for a permit.
 - b. A person has just moved to San Francisco after escaping ICE raids in other cities.
 - c. A person just had their vehicle towed before the two-hour policy was enacted.
 - d. A person does not want to sell their RV (a requirement for housing services), but cannot leave San Francisco due to parole restrictions.
 - e. The vehicle does not pass smog and cannot obtain current vehicle registration without substantial, costly repairs.
 - f. The vehicle is not operable and has been functioning as a long-term home in the Bayview.
 - g. The vehicle was a gift, and the current resident does not have the title.
 - h. The vehicle was recently purchased and does not appear in the City's official vehicle count from May 2025, but the person appears in the ONE system prior to the count.
5. The city's latest vehicle count from September 2 to 19 has found 698 large vehicles in San Francisco. How does the City intend to accommodate all vehicle homes that exceed the vehicle count done in May for the permit program?
6. According to a draft budget, the City has allocated \$560,872 to begin weekly enforcement operations. Does the amount and time allocated to enforcement remain the same? (*attached as a reference*)
7. To ensure our infographic is accurate, could you confirm the following timeline of the program's rollout?

September 3: Large Vehicle Permit website goes live. Street outreach begins with flyers. Permit eligibility questionnaire goes live.

September 10: City begins issuing eligibility emails to applicants.

September 16: Appeal process is described on the website, but filing location is not specified.

September 18: City staff internally finalize permit agreement application.

September 23: Community permit events begin and are listed online.

September 30: City staff internally finalize appeals process and affidavit.

October 1: Appeal form and evidence portal go live on the city's website.

October 3: Appeal process is redefined and constrained to specific dates (Jan-May 2025); appeal forms and affidavits become available in multiple languages.

October 6: Eligibility process changes from a questionnaire to a direct license plate entry system.

October 10: Appeals deadline is extended to October 30 (originally October 24).

October 17: AI RV chatbot goes live.

October 30: Final day to file an appeal.

November 1: Last scheduled permit event.

Given our tight turn around for this story, we would appreciate answers to these questions by 10 A.M. on Friday, October 31.

For reference, you can find our latest article here: <https://eltecolote.org/content/en/sf-rv-crackdown-fallout/>

I appreciate your work and attention to our inquiries. We look forward to your response.

Thank you,

Yesica Prado
Investigative Reporter | El Tecolote
EL TECOLOTE


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60K

Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 3:12 PM

To: "Press Office, Mayor (MYR)" <mayorspresso@sfgov.org>, "Thornhill, Jackie (DEM)" <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>, adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org

Cc: "Press, DEM (DEM)" <dempres@sfgov.org>

Hi,

I am writing to follow up on my email from October 28, regarding our in-depth article on the citywide two-hour RV parking restriction.

My editor is holding the story to include the City's perspective. However, to meet our print deadline and get this information directly to the residents most impacted, we need to know when we can expect a response. **Could you please provide a specific date and time by which we can expect answers to our questions?**

Additionally, as flagged by Michael Roccaforte, we are also awaiting response to two critical questions regarding disabled placards. For your convenience, they are repeated below:

As you know, the California Vehicle Code § 22511.5(a)(1)(B) explicitly states that a vehicle displaying a valid disabled placard or license plate "is allowed to park for unlimited periods in any... parking zone that is restricted as to the length of

time parking is permitted as indicated by a sign erected pursuant to a local ordinance." The new 2-hour parking restriction for oversized vehicles appears to be precisely this type of time-limited restriction.

1. What is the specific legal authority the City is relying on to supersede this state law for residents living in large vehicles?

Furthermore, the Mayor's office has [stated](#) that the city will not tow RVs with disabled placards.

2. If the placard does not provide a legal exemption from the 2-hour limit, what is the policy basis for this non-enforcement?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are committed to an accurate and fair story and look forward to including the City's response.

Best regards,

Yesica Prado
Investigative Reporter | El Tecolote

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Thornhill, Jackie (DEM) <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 3:43 PM

To: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>, "Press Office, Mayor (MYR)" <mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org>, "Bechelli, Adrienne (DEM)" <adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org>

Cc: "Press, DEM (DEM)" <dempres@sfgov.org>

Hi Yesica,

Thank you for your patience - we are finalizing a statement, and I should be able to get it to you in the next hour.

Best,

Jackie

Jackie Thornhill (she/her)

Communications Manager

Department of Emergency Management

(415) 530-7460 | Jackie.Thornhill@sfgov.org



Are you prepared? Visit sf.gov/ReadySF!

From: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:12 PM

To: Press Office, Mayor (MYR) <mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org>; Thornhill, Jackie (DEM) <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>; Bechelli, Adrienne (DEM) <adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org>

Cc: Press, DEM (DEM) <dempres@sfgov.org>

Subject: Re: MEDIA: RV permit questions - publishing deadline is October 31

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Thornhill, Jackie (DEM) <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>

Fri, Oct 31, 2025 at 4:37 PM

To: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>, "Press Office, Mayor (MYR)" <mayorspressooffice@sfgov.org>, "Bechelli, Adrienne (DEM)" <adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org>

Cc: "Press, DEM (DEM)" <dempres@sfgov.org>

Hi Yesica,

Thank you again for your patience. Here is our statement:

As of October 31, the City has issued 299 Large Vehicle Refuge Permits through Neighborhood Street Teams' field outreach and community events. Oversized vehicles will be subject to enforcement of the citywide two-hour parking

limit beginning November 1, following two months of outreach and a month of permit enrollment. To ensure maximum enrollment, vehicles identified in the May count will continue to remain eligible for permits.

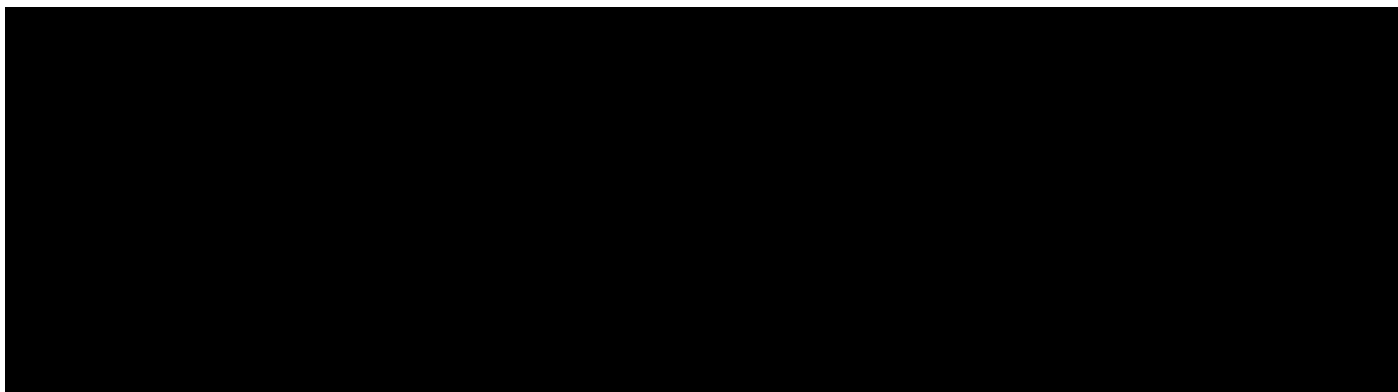
[Recent](#)

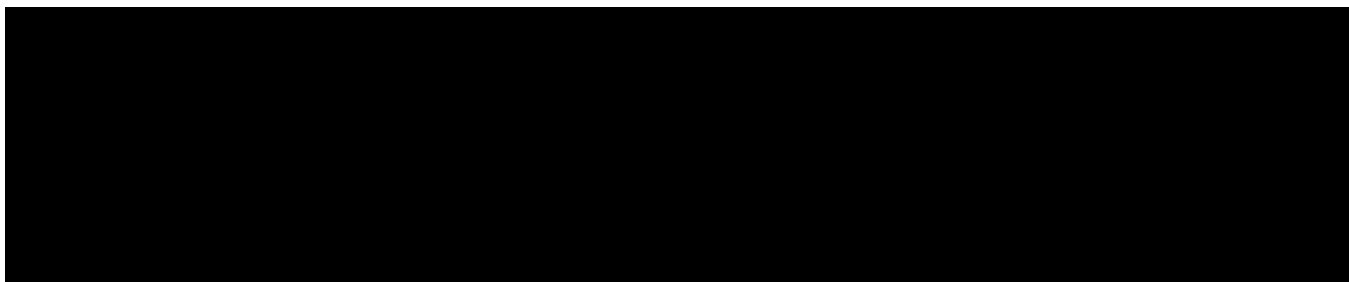
[City counts](#) show 404 large vehicles in September, down from 497 in June.

The permit is a transition tool and only prevents enforcement of the two-hour parking limit—it does not waive other parking or vehicle requirements, including operability. For residents who cannot move their large vehicles, case managers can help with options such as the vehicle buyback, relocation assistance and flexible financial support, and coordinate towing logistics when a vehicle is relinquished (households are not charged for these tows). For people outside the scope of the permit program, the City will continue outreach and service connections while applying the two-hour rule consistently citywide.

To support exits from vehicles, this year's budget added 100 new adult rapid-rehousing (RRH) slots reserved for people in large vehicles, 100 new RRH slots for transition-age youth (TAY), and 50 hotel vouchers for adults, providing immediate relief and pathways to stability. These investments build on substantial existing resources—805 adult RRH subsidies and over 10,000 permanent supportive housing (PSH) units—that can be strategically utilized to help individuals move from vehicles into permanent homes.

Also, on background:





Best,
Jackie

Jackie Thornhill (she/her)

Communications Manager

Department of Emergency Management

(415) 530-7460 | Jackie.Thornhill@sfgov.org



Are you prepared? Visit sf.gov/ReadySF!

From: Thornhill, Jackie (DEM) <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>

Sent: Friday, October 31, 2025 3:43 PM

To: Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>; Press Office, Mayor (MYR) <mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org>; Bechelli, Adrienne (DEM) <adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org>

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Yesica Prado <yesica@eltecolote.org>

Mon, Nov 3, 2025 at 2:01 PM

To: "Thornhill, Jackie (DEM)" <jackie.thornhill@sfgov.org>

Cc: "Press Office, Mayor (MYR)" <mayorspressoffice@sfgov.org>, "Bechelli, Adrienne (DEM)" <adrienne.bechelli@sfgov.org>, "Press, DEM (DEM)" <dempres@sfgov.org>

Hi Jackie,

Thank you so much for providing a statement on Friday. I am following up on several critical questions that remain unanswered, which are central to understanding the policy's impact on vulnerable San Francisco residents now that enforcement has begun.

1. Enforcement deadline:

Your statement confirmed enforcement begins November 1. However, this aspect of the question was not addressed: **Given that 202 vehicle households (40.3%) still lack a permit, what is the City's specific justification for beginning enforcement this month without a grace period?**

2. Inoperable vehicles:

You confirmed a permit does not exempt an inoperable vehicle from parking rules and a case manager can assist them. **Is there a dedicated phone number or address to connect them with a case manager for this exact issue?**

3. Exceptions for vulnerable populations:

Your statement said the City will continue "outreach and service connections" for people outside the permit program. **How**