

**CITY OF TEMECULA  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** City Manager/City Council

**FROM:** Patrick Thomas, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

**DATE:** May 23, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Introduce Ordinance Amending Section 10.28.010(D) of the Temecula Municipal Code Regarding Prima Facie Speed Limits on Certain Streets

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**PREPARED BY:** Erick Escobedo, Associate Engineer II  
Nick Minicilli, Senior Traffic Engineer

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the City Council introduce an ordinance entitled:

ORDINANCE NO.

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF  
TEMECULA AMENDING SECTION 10.28.010(D) OF THE  
TEMECULA MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING PRIMA FACIE  
SPEED LIMITS ON CERTAIN STREETS

**SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE:** The Temecula Municipal Code is hereby amended as follows to modify the declared prima facie speed limits on the following streets:

<b>Name of Street</b>	<b>Portion Affected</b>	<b>Declared Prima Facie Speed Limit</b>
Pechanga Parkway	Temecula Parkway to Rainbow Canyon Road	40 MPH
	Rainbow Canyon Road to Muirfield Drive	45 MPH
	Muirfield Drive to Loma Linda Road	45 MPH
	Loma Linda Road to Wolf Valley Road	45 MPH
	Wolf Valley Road to Casino Drive South	45 MPH
	Casino Drive South to South City Limits	45 MPH

**BACKGROUND:** The California Vehicle Code (CVC) requires local authorities to review, reaffirm or adjust speed limits within their jurisdiction every seven (7) years based on an Engineering and Traffic (E&T) Survey. The CVC also allows local authorities to extend an E&T Survey to fourteen (14) years, if a Registered Engineer determines that no significant changes in roadway or traffic conditions have occurred, including major changes to adjacent property or land use, roadway width or traffic volumes. The E&T survey provides the mechanism for the legal

enforcement of the posted speed limit by use of radar or any other electronic speed-measuring device.

As defined in the California Vehicle Code, an engineering and traffic survey is “a survey of highway and traffic conditions in accordance with methods determined by the Department of Transportation for use by state and local authorities.” The survey shall include, but not be limited to, consideration of prevailing speeds as determined by traffic engineering measurements, accident statistics, and highway, traffic, and roadside conditions not readily apparent to the driver. These characteristics are all considered when determining a reasonable and prudent posted speed limit. It should be noted that establishing a speed limit, which is not consistent with the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile speed, constitutes a “speed trap” and is not enforceable by use of radar or any other electronic speed-measuring device.

During the January 24, 2023, City Council Meeting, staff brought forth the 2022 Citywide Engineering and Traffic Survey (E&TS) update for review and approval. As part of that traffic survey, the Pechanga Parkway corridor was analyzed from Temecula Parkway to the City’s south limits. The survey recommended dropping the existing posted speed limit on Pechanga Parkway from Rainbow Canyon Road to the South City Limits from 45 mph to 40 mph and maintaining the speed limit on Pechanga Parkway from Temecula Parkway to Rainbow Canyon Drive at 40 mph.

Although City Council approved the E&TS speed recommendations, there was concerned discussion related to a speed reduction on Pechanga Parkway. Based on this discussion, City staff took it upon themselves to restudy the traffic survey on the Pechanga Parkway corridor. The new speed survey results revealed that the existing posted speed limit of 45 mph on Pechanga Parkway from Rainbow Canyon Road to the South City Limits were valid based on the new 85<sup>th</sup> percentile survey speed. The existing 40 mph speed limit on Pechanga Parkway from Temecula Parkway to Rainbow Canyon Road was also validated with the resurvey. Staff additionally performed several field visits which confirmed that the existing posted speed limits are appropriate for Pechanga Parkway and speed limit reductions that the previously approved E&TS had recommended were no longer appropriate.

The recommended posted speed limits conform to the requirements of the California Vehicle Code and the Caltrans MUTCD for establishing prudent posted speed limits that are consistent with roadway conditions, prevailing speeds, and more importantly, enforceable.

City staff recommends the posted speed limit on Pechanga Parkway from Temecula Parkway to South City Limits remain at the current posted speed limits and that City Council adopt an Ordinance establishing the speed limits.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Ordinance
2. Pechanga Speed Survey Update