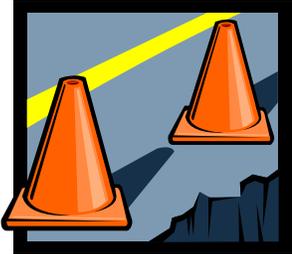




ENCROACHMENT PERMITS



WHEN IS AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT REQUIRED?

An encroachment permit is required from the City when work is done within the Public right-of-way. Encroachment permits are not issued for work done on private property, which is handled through the planning division of the community services department. The Public Works Department or requires permits for private subdivisions and offsite improvements on commercial developments such as concrete work, parking lot paving and drainage.

WHAT DOES AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT CONSIST OF?

Encroachment permits consist of two primary sections: the application, and the permit. The permit section consists of standard predefined conditions along with any special conditions which are applied to the permit; the permit fees; the trust fund deposit, if applicable; and construction inspection. A permit number must be issued by the City before a permit is considered valid.

FOR HOW LONG IS AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT VALID?

Generally a permit is valid for one year. Once the permit expires, generally after one year, an extension can be obtained by paying a renewal fee which is typically 10% of the original permit fee. However, in some circumstances a new encroachment permit application must be filed. Annual permits, which can be issued to utility companies, are valid for one year from the date they are issued.

HOW MUCH DOES AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT COST?

The cost of an encroachment permit varies depending on the type and cost of the improvements being constructed.

The minimum fee for a permit is \$188.00. However, in a few cases NO FEE permits are issued, such as when another public agency needs to perform work on a City of El Centro public street. A permit is required for the landscaping work within the City right-of-way even if the work is outside the right-of-way but traffic control is needed in the travel lanes of the City's street.

SPECIAL SIGNAL FUNCTIONS

Traffic Signal Preemption

The transfer of signal control to a special signal operation is called preemption. There are three common types of preemption, based on the reason for preemption: Railroad, Emergency Vehicle, and Transit Vehicle Preemption.

Emergency and Transit Vehicle Preemption

Emergency vehicle preemption can be used for any authorized emergency vehicle, but normally only for fire engines. The Purpose is to obtain a green light, existing green lights, including pedestrian intervals, are abbreviated. After the yellow change interval, a green light is given to the approach to be used by the emergency vehicle.

There are three means of signal preemption from emergency vehicles: mobile radio, siren sensor, and modulated strobe light. Light modulated output of a vehicle emitter is received by a detector at a signal.

There are a number of traffic signals with this type of preemption in the City of El Centro and all new traffic signals are being provided with emergency vehicle preemption equipment.

WHAT DO FLASHING AND DARK TRAFFIC SIGNALS MEAN?

Flashing Traffic Signals

Traffic signals sometimes develop hardware problems. When they do, the controller mechanism is programmed to turn the signal over to flashing operation. According to the California Vehicle Code, when a red lens is illuminated with intermittent red flashes, a driver is required to stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection. The driver may proceed subject to the rules applicable to making a stop at a 4-way stop controlled intersection.

Dark Signals

When a traffic signal has gone dark due to power failure it is considered to function the same way as a 4-way stop controlled intersection and a driver must stop before entering the intersection. Newly constructed but yet to be activated signals often have covered or turned signal heads. These intersections are considered to remain controlled by the existing stop signs unit such time as the signal is activated to either red flashing mode or full color operation.

REQUESTS AND INQUIRES

If you have any questions, requests or suggestions concerning traffic in general, please call the Engineering Division of the Public Works Department at **(760) 337-5182** or submit your request via the Online Request for City Service Form.