



STAFF REPORT

Resolution Granting a Hauling Permit to Peak Engineering on Behalf of the City of Belmont for the Removal of Material from 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas (Main Library) in Vehicles Exceeding the Maximum 8-Ton (16,000 pounds) Gross Weight on Ralston Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas, South of Ralston Avenue

Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Summary

Hauling of materials from the Belmont Library site located at 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas to accommodate construction of the new Belmont Library is expected to begin on September 20, 2004. Peak Engineering, the hauling demolition contractor indicates that it wishes to use trucks which exceed the weight limits established by Belmont Municipal Code. Pursuant to Section 14-65 of the Belmont Municipal Code, the City Council may, upon making of specific findings, grant an exemption to the weight limits enumerated in the Belmont Municipal Code. For the reasons specified within this report, staff recommends that the Council approve a permit for hauling pursuant to Section 14-65, allowing the demolition contractor to off-haul materials in trucks which exceed the weight limits enumerated in the Belmont Municipal Code.

The City Code requires City Council authorization for any vehicle to travel along Ralston Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas if the gross weight exceeds 8-tons. The Library Project will require 4,000 cubic yards of soil to be removed from the building site. Any type of vehicle used to haul soil will exceed 8-tons of gross weight.

Background

Belmont Municipal Code, Chapter 14, Article III, Truck Routes and Weight Limitations, contain the City's standards for hauling of materials to and from the City. These code sections were adopted in 1961 and for the most part have not been updated since that time. Based upon questions recently asked by Council members, staff has determined that many of these code sections are outdated and should be revised. The Public Works Director, the Police Chief, the Interim City Manager, the Community Development Director and the City Attorney met several weeks ago to begin this process. Staff anticipates that revisions to these code sections will be brought to the Council within the next several months. This report addresses a more immediate issue in regard to off-hauling of materials from the Belmont Library project.

Section 14-46 of the Belmont Municipal Code designates truck routes within the City. Subsection (e) provides that Alameda de las Pulgas between Ralston Avenue on the north and the corporate limits of the City on the south is an acceptable truck route, but limits the gross weight of any truck and load moving along that roadway to 8 tons. A portion of the route to be utilized by trucks off-hauling materials from the Belmont Library site will proceed along these roadways.

City Code (Sec. 14-48) reads, “No person shall operate any truck having a gross weight, including load, in excess of eight (8) tons on Ralston Avenue west of El Camino Real in the city or in excess of three tons on any other street in the city, except on those streets specified in section 14-46.

Gross Weights of Trucks

The following table outlines the unloaded and loaded weights of various types of trucks that may be found traveling along our truck routes on a daily basis:

| Type of Truck | Empty Weight | Loaded Weight |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Small Dump Truck (2 axle) | 13,100 pounds | 26,000 pounds |
| Large Dump Truck (3 axle) | 14,100 pounds | 33,000 pounds |
| Street Sweeper (2 axle) | 19,100 pounds | 33,000 pounds |
| Sewer Vacuum Truck (3 axle) | | 26,900 pounds |
| Fire Engine (2 axle) | | 34,000 pounds |
| Fire Ladder Truck (3 axle) | | 65,000 pounds |
| BFI Garbage Truck (3 axle) | | 46,000 pounds |

All of these vehicles exceed the 16,000-pound (8-ton) maximum gross weight limits of our truck routes. It should be noted that all of the vehicles above are exempt from the weight limits if they are owned by a public agency or utility. The Contractor proposes to use tractor-trailer dumps to haul the material from the site. The gross weight of the loaded vehicle is 73,000 pounds, or 36.5 tons.

Pavement Design

The impact of various trucks on the pavement design will be addressed in a future report dealing with truck routes.

Discussion

As indicated above, the demolition contractor on the Library project has proposed that it be allowed to off-haul materials from the site in trucks which exceed the above-referenced weight limitations.

Belmont Municipal Code Section 14-62 allows for the Council to consider an application from “any person desiring to operate any vehicle having a gross weight, including load, exceeding the

maximum gross weight limits herein set forth along any restricted street” to obtain a permit from the City Council.

An application for a permit to vary from the weight limits must, pursuant to Section 14-62, provide facts, which would constitute:

- 1) The necessity for operating a vehicle along or upon the restricted streets in excess of the gross weight limits set forth in the code;
- 2) Show the dates on which the operation is intended to commence and cease and the times of day during which operation is intended to be conducted;
- 3) Identify the route proposed;
- 4) Identify the time interval between vehicles and the number of vehicles per hour, which will travel over the route to which the permit is to apply;
- 5) Provide any further information the City Council believes is relevant.

The following reasons provide a basis for granting a waiver to the Municipal Code:

- 1) The contractor bid the project based upon using a conventional tractor-trailer end dump vehicle. The use of any smaller dump vehicle will double the number of vehicles and at a minimum, double the cost of hauling the material from the Library site.
- 2) The project is scheduled to begin on September 20th. The project contract runs for 90 calendar days. It is estimated that approximately 5 days will be required to haul the demolished library material from the site. Approximately 15 days will be required to remove the soil from the site. The removal of material will not be on consecutive days and will be spaced throughout the project time frame. The hours of operation will be between 8:30 am and 5 pm.
- 3) The trucks will enter and leave the site via Ralston Avenue to either SR 2 or US 101 and Alameda de las Pulgas between the library site and Ralston Avenue.
- 4) The time interval for trucks leaving the site will be approximately 10 to 15 minutes apart during the removal of the demolished library material. The time interval during the hauling of soil from the construction site will be two trucks every five minutes.

- 5) All trucks will be staged either on the construction site, immediately adjacent to the front of the construction site, or in a remote staging area with radio communication. The sites may be either the southern part of the Caltrain parking lot, or the dirt lot adjacent to the Sports Complex. There will be flaggers to facilitate the egress of the vehicles exiting onto Alameda de las Pulgas.

Pursuant to Section 14-65, Conditions for Granting Permits, the City Council may grant a permit allowing the variance from the weight limits based upon the following findings:

- (a) That the public health, safety or welfare require the operation of vehicles in excess of the weight limits herein set forth and the use of the route applied for or such modification thereof as it may be deemed advisable;
- (b) That the hauling over the route specified will not be injurious to the public health, safety or welfare;
- (c) That the city will be duly protected from liability for injury to persons and property;
- (d) That the city will be indemnified from injury to the public streets and other places by reason of the use thereof for such operation.

As indicated above, staff recommends that the Council approve a permit granting permission to vary from the weight limits. Staff is of the opinion that findings (a) through (d) can be made for the following reasons:

- (a) The operation of the tractor-trailer dump vehicles will reduce the number of vehicle trips without adversely affecting the public health, safety or welfare of the public. In addition, the hours of operation are consistent with the City's Noise Ordinance and will not conflict with Carlmont High School's morning peak commute time period.
- (b) The routes used by the vehicles will be on designated truck routes with pavement designed to handle the fully loaded vehicles.
- (c) The contractor will have insurance protecting the City from liability for injury to persons and property.
- (d) The City will be indemnified from injury to public streets and other places by reason of the use of vehicles associated with the removal of material from the construction site.

The gross weight of a large dump truck is 33,000 pounds (16.5 tons) and the gross weight of a tractor-trailer dump truck typically used for hauling soil from building sites is 73,000 pounds (36.5 tons). The actual per axle load is approximately 5-tons for a large dump truck and 7-tons for the tractor-trailer dump truck. The use of tractor-trailer dump trucks will reduce the number of trips to and from the building site required to remove all of the soil. This will reduce the traffic impact associated with this phase of the project.

Related Issues

The review of the truck gross weight limits on the designated truck routes as defined in the City Code do not reflect the weights of most trucks traveling along these routes. The City Attorney will be reviewing these sections that address the maximum gross weights allowed by City Code as part of the regularly scheduled update of the City Code. Council may instruct the City Attorney to address these sections sooner, if they so choose.

Fiscal Impact

There will be no fiscal impact as the result of the action taken by Council to exempt the contractor from the gross weight limits. The City will receive the Hauling Permit fees as required in the City Code. The Hauling Permit fees are calculated based on the total amount of soil that is to be removed. It is not calculated based upon the type of vehicles being used.

Recommendation

It is recommended City Council adopt a resolution granting a hauling permit to Peak Engineering, on behalf of the City of Belmont for the removal of soil from 1110 Alameda de las Pulgas (Main Library) in vehicles exceeding the maximum 8-ton (16,000 pounds) gross weight on Ralston Avenue and Alameda de las Pulgas.

Alternatives

1. Refer back to staff for further information.
2. Deny the request.

Attachments

1. Resolution

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond E. Davis III, PE, PTOE
Public Works Director

Daniel Rich
Interim City Manager

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September 14, 2004
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RESOLUTION NO. _____

**CITY OF BELMONT
San Mateo County, California**

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT
RESOLUTION GRANTING A HAULING PERMIT TO PEAK ENGINEERING ON BEHALF OF
THE CITY OF BELMONT FOR THE REMOVAL OF MATERIAL FROM 1110 ALAMEDA DE
LAS PULGAS (MAIN LIBRARY) IN VEHICLES EXCEEDING THE MAXIMUM 8-TON (16,000
POUNDS) GROSS WEIGHT ON RALSTON AVENUE AND ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS,
SOUTH OF RALSTON AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the City of Belmont has authorized demolition of the Belmont Library; and

WHEREAS, Peak Engineering has been approved as the contractor for demolition of the Library; and

WHEREAS, Peak Engineering proposes to utilize the City streets for removal of demolition materials from the site; and

WHEREAS, Belmont Municipal Code Section 14-65 allows for the removal of material from the site in trucks exceeding the weight limits provided for in Belmont Municipal Code, Chapter 14, Article III, Truck Routes and Weight Limitation, provided certain findings are made; and

WHEREAS, the City Council finds that:

- (a) That the public health, safety or welfare require the operation of vehicles in excess of the weight limits herein set forth and the use of the route applied for or such modification thereof as it may be deemed advisable;

The operation of the tractor-trailer dump vehicles will reduce the number of vehicle trips without adversely affecting the public health, safety or welfare of the public. In addition, the hours of operation are consistent with the City's Noise Ordinance and will not conflict with Carlmont High School's morning peak commute time period.

- (b) That the hauling over the route specified will not be injurious to the public health, safety or welfare;

The routes used by the vehicles will be on designated truck routes with pavement designed to handle the fully loaded vehicles.

- c) That the city will be duly protected from liability for injury to persons and property; The contractor will have insurance protecting the City from liability for injury to persons and property.

- (d) That the City will be indemnified, pursuant to terms of the contract, from injury to the public streets and other places by reason of the use thereof for such operation.

The City will be indemnified from injury to public streets and other places by reason of the use of vehicles associated with the removal of material from the construction site.

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NOW THEREFORE, the City Council grants a permit pursuant to Belmont Municipal Code Section 14-65 to Peak Engineering.

* * * * *

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on this 14th day of September 2004, by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBER(S): _____

Clerk of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

Mayor of the City of Belmont