

Subject:Red light cameras - for the Encinitas City Council Dec. 11

Date:Mon, 9 Dec 2019 15:55:19 -0800

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To City staff: Please also provide a copy of this email to the members of the Traffic Commission, for their meeting of Dec. 9.

For City staff: Please route this email to the members of the City Council, and make it available to the public along with the other documents for the item on the agenda of Dec. 11.

12-9-19

Subject: Red light cam eight year extension on Dec. 11 Encinitas council agenda

Honorable Councilmembers:

I've written to you a number of times before (see thread below) so today I'm going to cover only new information and issues.

Are the Cameras Effective?

Earlier this year the City of Menlo Park and the City of San Mateo chose to shut down their camera programs. They did so after their (separate) studies showed that the cameras were ineffective. (The relevant staff reports are available on the two cities' websites. See the Menlo Park council agenda for April 9, 2019 and the San Mateo council agenda for July 15, 2019.) With those two closures California has 27 camera cities, down from 106.

The current staff report's collision stats don't make a good argument for the use of cameras but at least there is a step in the right direction - the stats include a control group of two non-camera intersections. But now there's no more pre-camera stats. Were those deleted because of the SSLA analysis I sent you in 2013? (A copy is attached.)

The Money

When I listen to councils' discussions of camera programs I often hear a councilmember lament about the size of the fine but then state that their city has no control over the amount of the fine - that it's set in stone by the Legislature. I want to point out that at least for rolling rights a city CAN reduce the fine. Right now most cities write up their right turn tickets under CVC 21453(a) which carries a fine of \$500, even though they

have the option to do as the City of LA did before it closed its camera program; LA cited right turns under CVC 21453(b) which has a much lower "base fine" (\$35 vs. \$100), resulting in a total fine of about \$240. If you negotiate your camera rent down to what is paid in Del Mar (three cameras at \$1578/mo) and Solana Beach (three cameras at \$2364/mo), that lower rent will allow the significantly reduced fine I suggest here without much effect on the program's overall finances. You may even find that a higher percentage of those cited are willing to pay the smaller fine instead of ignoring the ticket altogether.

Finally, I want to mention that it's been in the news that in the near future there could be a change in the rules, nationwide, to require a longer yellow on left turns - which would dramatically reduce the quantity of left turn tickets. (In 2018 68% of Encinitas tickets were for left turns.) For more information, ask your staff, or do a Google on the name Mats Jarlstrom.

Regards,

Jim