

November 9, 2020

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
c/o Clerk of the Board
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: North Ventura Ave/Crooked Palm Rd Parking Permit Program
(Agenda Item # 41, Nov 10th meeting)

Members of the Board of Supervisors

We have lived in the greater Ojai Valley for over 40 years. After the Thomas fire we noticed an increase of illegally parked RV's along North Ventura Avenue and Crooked Palm Rd. At the time, it seemed to range from 10 to 15 at a time.

In the last 6 months, the number of RV's and associated vehicles has exploded. Twice this past week we counted at least 50 RV's with many more associated vehicles. Since this has been allowed to continue, the word has spread and the area has become a magnet for more users. If unchecked, many more will come to the area. Many objectionable activities such as fires, discarded trash, sewage and other illegal activities will increase. In addition, the poor image that it provides to the entrance of the Ojai Valley cannot be minimized – it is disgusting.

The recommended program includes positive steps compared to letting it continue unchecked. However, with some additional effort, a much better program can be developed. Please consider the following:

- Find a location that is not so obvious to the general public. Ventura's River Haven is a perfect example. It has helped many homeless folks and the location is nicely tucked away near Olivas Park Dr/Harbor Blvd.
- Define areas in several other parts of the County so that District 1 is not experiencing the full burden of this program.
- Consider available County property for this program. Happy Camp Park, Toland Park, and even outer parking areas at the County Government Center come to mind.

We are strongly opposed to the recommended action. Please consider the above bulleted items before you enact this ordinance.

Respectfully,

Ron and Janis Calkins
[REDACTED]
Oak View, CA 93002