

Block-Your-Own-Driveway Parking Permits

California prohibits on-street parking on the street in front of a private driveway but allows cities to issue permits that allow residents to block their own driveways. These permits provide residents with a guaranteed on-street parking space in front of the driveway. Section 22507.2 of the California Vehicle Code says,

A local authority may, by ordinance, authorize the owner or lessee of property to park a vehicle in front of the owner's or lessee's private driveway when the vehicle displays a permit issued pursuant to the ordinance authorizing such parking.

The driveway for a street-facing two-car garage is typically 20 to 24 feet wide to allow two cars to park on it, with enough space to open the car doors. In addition, the driveway apron between the sidewalk and the street flares by another two feet on each side to accommodate turning into the driveway. Thus, a driveway parking permit reserves about 22 to 26 feet of on-street parking for residents and their guests. Because the typical frontage of a single-family residence in Los Angeles is 50 feet, a driveway parking permit can double the on-street parking capacity in front of a house.

Because parking in front of a driveway is illegal without a permit, driveway parking permits don't take on-street parking spaces away from anyone. By allowing residents (or their guests or service workers) to park in front of their driveways, the driveway permits should reduce the demand for conventional curb spaces, making on-street parking more available for everyone. Granting residents the exclusive right to park on the street in front of their own driveways may reduce political opposition to ending off-street parking requirements.