

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
October 22, 2014

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## **Help Protect Your Neighborhood During the Holidays: Permits Needed to Ensure Safe Holiday Displays Over Public Roads in Unincorporated Areas**

**Displays fully contained on private property do not need a permit.**

Orange County (OC) Public Works wants to take this opportunity to remind residents in the unincorporated areas of Orange County that they must obtain an “encroachment” permit if they plan to stretch holiday displays, including strings of lights, over public roadways.

“Public safety is the County’s top priority, and we want residents and homeowner groups to be aware of the legal requirements to ensure a safe environment as they look to enjoy the holidays through lights and decorations,” said Shane Silsby, Director of OC Public Works.

The festive over-roadway displays, popular in some neighborhoods during Fall and Winter holidays, require a permit and safety inspection. The permit establishes guidelines to ensure public safety and code compliance for homeowner associations and individuals interested in installing holiday displays over public roads.

The purpose of the required permit is to ensure that displays provide adequate clearance for emergency and service vehicles and are installed with proper electrical connections.

Holiday display encroachment permits are necessary only for those considering lights or decorations stretched across public streets. Displays fully contained on private property do not need a permit.

The fee for a permit is \$583, plus payment of a refundable \$1,000 surety, which will be returned if no incidents occur during the display period. A \$1 million insurance policy naming the County of Orange as additional insured also must be obtained.

To help control permit fees incurred by individuals, OC Public Works allows a homeowners association to purchase one permit for the entire community. OC Public Works would like to coordinate with interested homeowner associations and individuals to provide additional information about the permit process in advance of the holidays.

To learn more about obtaining an encroachment permit, individuals can contact OC Public Works’ Development Processing Center at **(714) 667-8888** or visit the web site at [www.ocplanning.net/permits](http://www.ocplanning.net/permits).