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Arron Brown, City Manager
City of Canyon Lake
31516 Railroad Canyon Road
Canyon Lake, CA 92587

Honorable Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside,

The City of Canyon Lake ("City") is a unique municipality in Southwest Riverside County. Nearly all of our City consists of a gated residential community featuring numerous amenities, including an 18-hole golf course. The overwhelming majority of roads in our City are private and maintained by the Canyon Lake Property Owners Association (POA). Railroad Canyon Road is the City's sole public street, spanning four lanes and bisecting residential areas and golf course properties from east to west.

In 1995, the City Council adopted Chapter 12.08 of the Canyon Lake Municipal Code, thereby establishing the Railroad Canyon Road golf cart crossing at Canyon Lake Drive South. This crossing was developed in full compliance with California Vehicle Code (CVC) sections 21115 and 21115.1, which explicitly permit golf cart crossings under local jurisdictional authority.

Legal Basis and Compliance

CVC Section 21115 and Section 21115.1 empower local authorities to establish golf cart crossing zones under specific conditions, which the City has met without exception. Signage is properly posted, the crossing operates at an appropriate angle of 90 degrees to the roadway, and it is located adjacent to the golf course as required.

Moreover, Chapter 12.08 of the Canyon Lake Municipal Code reflects this legal authority:

12.08.010 permits golf carts to cross Railroad Canyon Road at the designated crossing in accordance with pedestrian traffic signals.

12.08.020 prohibits any other operation of golf carts on Railroad Canyon Road outside the designated crossing.

12.08.030 mandates the installation of compliant signage and traffic markers.

The City's ordinance is clear, consistent with state law, and has been relied upon by our residents for decades.



Longstanding Practice and Safety Record

Golf carts are an essential mode of transportation in Canyon Lake, reflecting both the City's culture and our residents' needs. Residents regularly use golf carts for errands, recreation, and access to local businesses, with Railroad Canyon Road serving as the primary crossing route.

It is important to highlight that no significant safety issues or collisions involving the golf cart crossing have been reported. The City has ensured the crossing operates safely through properly installed signage, signalized intersections, and enforcement of traffic laws. This longstanding practice underscores the validity of the crossing and its effective management.

Addressing Recent Enforcement Discrepancies

Despite the City's lawful establishment of the golf cart crossing, recent enforcement actions by the Riverside County Sheriff's Office have created unnecessary confusion for our residents. The Sheriff's Office has cited individuals for operating golf carts or low-speed vehicles in what the City firmly views as a legally authorized crossing zone.

To clarify:

The crossing complies fully with CVC Sections 21115 and 21115.1.

Chapter 12.08 of the Canyon Lake Municipal Code remains in effect and valid.

The City has communicated its position to the Sheriff's Office and continues to work with them to ensure alignment on enforcement practices.

The City does not accept the premise that this crossing is unauthorized. Any enforcement action that conflicts with our established ordinance creates unnecessary hardship and confusion for residents.

Moving Forward

The City of Canyon Lake respectfully requests the Court to consider the longstanding legality of the Railroad Canyon Road golf cart crossing and the City's clear statutory authority. Our residents have relied upon this crossing in good faith, and enforcement discrepancies should not be used to penalize them unfairly.



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The City is actively collaborating with the Sheriff's Office to ensure a unified understanding and enforcement of this matter. Additionally, we are evaluating opportunities to enhance safety along Railroad Canyon Road, including further review of speed limits, signage improvements, and additional traffic control measures.

We trust the Court will consider this matter fairly and in alignment with the City's documented authority and commitment to public safety.

Should you have any further questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Respectfully,
Arron Brown, City Manager
City of Canyon Lake
31516 Railroad Canyon Road
Canyon Lake, CA 92587
Email: abrown@canyonlakeca.gov