



City of Walnut Creek
Development Review Services
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Charity Car Washes

Background: School groups and non-profit organizations frequently operate weekend charity car washes at local gas stations. The groups do not charge a fee for the car wash but do accept donations. Additionally, the events only last a day or two and do not occur on a regular basis. Charity car washes as described above are generally not regulated by the Zoning Ordinance. These events differ from promotional car washes that operate as part of a business, charge a fee, or operate on a regular or recurring basis (these promotional car washes are regulated by the Zoning Ordinance and generally require either a Temporary Activity Permit or a Conditional Use Permit, depending on the regulations of the particular zoning district).

Action: Charity car washes which operate in the manner described above do not require any permits from the Planning Division. Charity car washes do however need to include protection of the storm drain system to prevent pollution from entering our creeks and waterways. The City has car wash kits available for use free of charge with a refundable deposit. The car wash kits include a submersible pump, a hose to drain to a landscaped area, an extension cord, plastic drain covers, and safety cones. Charity groups wishing to borrow a car wash kit should contact the Engineering Division at (925) 943-5839.