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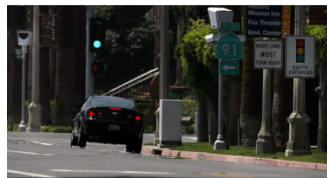
MORENO VALLEY: Red light camera to be shut off

City officials asked Riverside, which installed the camera, to remove it

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BY ALICIA ROBINSON / STAFF WRITER
Published: Aug. 6, 2012 7:42 p.m.



FILE PHOTO

The last red light camera in Moreno Valley will be shut off soon, after that city's officials asked Riverside remove it.

The camera at Day Street and Canyon Springs Parkway is part of Riverside's red light camera program and points at an intersection on the border between the two cities. It was installed in 2009 after both cities heard complaints about red light running and cars blocking the intersection, which provides access to busy shopping plazas, several fast-food restaurants and other stores.

After the Moreno Valley City Council voted in January 2010 to end its own red-light camera program, some residents wondered why there was still a camera within the city limits.

Moreno Valley asked Riverside to remove the camera, and Riverside Public Works Director Tom Boyd confirmed last week that it will be taken down within 30 days, though he could not give an exact date.

Moreno Valley Mayor Richard Stewart said Monday, Aug. 6, that he heard complaints from residents of his city and beyond.

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“We took the heat without having any control over it,” he said. “I’m happy to see all those red light cameras go. The few people that like them just haven’t looked at the reality of what it does. It takes away the discretion of a police officer.”

Meanwhile, the city of Riverside is considering whether to ax its entire photo enforcement program. Boyd recommended in July that the program be discontinued because projections showed it would run a \$611,000 deficit this fiscal year.

The program already was losing money overall, but the expected removal of the Day Street camera and Caltrans officials’ refusal to renew permits for several cameras in their right-of-way were expected to worsen the losses.

The Riverside City Council in July put off a decision on the camera program for 60 days.

City statistics show the Day Street camera ranked near the top of Riverside’s 30 cameras in terms of the number of tickets issued in 2011. Looking at single cameras rather than intersections with more than one camera, the 3,039 tickets sent out from the Day Street were second only to the camera on westbound Tyler Street at Highway 91, which accounted for more than 9,000 citations.

Follow Alicia Robinson on Twitter: @arobinson_pe, or online at <http://blog.pe.com/riverside/>



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