

National City approves auto biz with conditions

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Allison Sampite-
Montecalvo

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The [National City](#) council has unanimously approved a permit for a wholesale auto sales business with specific environmental conditions to assuage elected officials and the community.

The permit for Perry Ford at 2000 Roosevelt Ave. would allow for a car wash that uses certified biodegradable or green products, new car preparation (excluding detail), outdoor vehicle storage, electrical and trim installation (optional equipment for new vehicles), random spot inspections and employee parking.

Any hazardous products, such as chemicals, cleaning agents and solvents could not be used on site and would have to be transferred to Perry Ford's Mile of Cars property across the street.

"It's great to see that there was willingness on behalf of the applicant but also on behalf of the community to really see what could be done in that space," Councilwoman Alejandra Sotelo-Solis said at the council meeting Sept. 5.

The decision was continued from the Aug. 15 council meeting, when with a majority vote postponed Perry Ford's request because the proposal did not include a physical list of products that the business would use for its services. The list is now included in the conditions of the agreement. At issue were the concerns of residents, community organizations and a few members of the council regarding public health and safety.

At the Sept. 5 meeting the tone changed.

"It's almost close to a year since we've been talking about the conditional use permit and it's taken a lot of negotiations. ... We really appreciate that it's setting a standard," said Carolina Martinez with the Environmental Health Coalition. "It's providing new solutions to challenges that we've been having for a very long time."

The 1.5-acre parcel is within the city's westside specific plan area, which has historically been home to auto-related businesses. The property has a 4,000-square-foot warehouse, 800-foot carport and 178-space parking lot.