



Local Control of Speed Limits

SUMMARY OF THE ISSUE

The State of California determines the traffic speed limit on local streets. The speed is set using a prescribed formula. While this approach enables consistency throughout the State, it may not recognize the particular nuisances of a community and the appropriateness of that speed limit for the community. Therefore, there should be more local consideration given to speed limits and the process that is utilized by the State to increase speed limits.

PUBLIC BENEFIT/IMPACT

Increasing the speed limit on local roads from 30 mph to 35 mph, for example, can cause unsafe conditions for communities, especially when such areas consist of children, pedestrians and bicyclists.

COST TO THE GOVERNMENT

REQUESTED ACTION AND STRATEGY

The County requests assistance from its delegation to coordinate with respective State agencies regarding speed limits on local streets and seek legislation to modify existing law as needed to ensure local control over the appropriate speed limit established for local streets.

CONTACT:

Scott McGolpin, Director, Public Works Department, 805.568.3010

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

105 East Anapamu Street, Suite 406
Santa Barbara, California 93101
805/568-3400 • Fax 805/568-3414

*Terri Maus Nisich, Assistant County Executive Officer
Sharon Friedrichsen, Assistant to the County Executive Officer*