

Kyburz #53 public comment
BOS Revd
4/10/26
26-0527

Public Comment – Highway 50 Speed Limit Increase (Kyburz area)

From Kendra & Jim Ussery <jkussery@gmail.com>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 12:47 PM

To Brooke Laine <Brooke.Laine@edcgov.us>; BOS-District I <bosone@edcgov.us>; BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>; BOS-District II <bostwo@edcgov.us>; BOS-District III <bosthree@edcgov.us>; BOS-District IV <bosfour@edcgov.us>; bos@edcgov.us <bos@edcgov.us>; d3pio@dot.ca.gov <d3pio@dot.ca.gov>; randeep.lally@dot.ca.gov <randeep.lally@dot.ca.gov>; gil@senate.ca.gov <gil@senate.ca.gov>; assemblymember.joepatterson@assembly.ca.gov <assemblymember.joepatterson@assembly.ca.gov>; governor@governor.ca.gov <governor@governor.ca.gov>

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To Whom It May Concern,

Regarding the upcoming public hearing on April 21st proposing increasing the speed limit through a residential area of highway 50, I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed increase of the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph on Highway 50 through the town of Kyburz.

Kyburz is not simply a stretch of open highway—it is a small, active community with approximately 130+ residents, including both year-round and seasonal occupants. Despite its size, the town serves as a hub for both local life and tourism, and the current roadway conditions reflect that reality.

Within this short corridor, Kyburz includes a K–8 school, a post office, a convenience store and gas station, two restaurants, a motel, the Kyburz Lodge and the tire chain business. In addition, there are multiple residential roads that connect directly to Highway 50, with no stop signs, turn lanes or traffic signals on the highway to regulate entry or crossing. Residents, including children, must frequently access the highway for daily activities.

Equally important, Kyburz is a well-known destination for outdoor recreation. There is a popular hiking and climbing area where parking is located directly alongside the highway, requiring visitors to cross Highway 50 on foot. Nearby, a campground and swimming area draw significant seasonal foot traffic, with tourists often walking along the shoulder of the highway to reach local businesses. These conditions create a steady presence of pedestrians in an environment already constrained by limited visibility, blind turns, narrow shoulders, and natural terrain.

At the east end of the 45 mph zone, there is a blind curve where Kyburz Drive accesses Highway 50. Many residents already avoid using this access point due to limited sight distance and the existing safety risks, even at current speeds. In addition, businesses along the highway lack designated turn lanes, requiring vehicles to slow or stop directly in the travel lane. The local Caltrans yard also regularly operates very large and slow-moving vehicles and equipment that must enter and exit the highway within this same zone, again without the benefit of a turning lane. These conditions frequently cause highway traffic to slow or stop unexpectedly. Increasing the speed limit in an area with known visibility limitations and frequent speed differentials between vehicles will substantially increase the likelihood and severity of collisions.

Increasing the speed limit by 10 mph in this context would significantly elevate the risk of serious injury or fatality. Higher speeds reduce driver reaction time, increase stopping distances, and magnify the severity of collisions—particularly involving pedestrians. Response times for accidents in our community can be as long as 30 minutes or more as conditions stand currently. Given the absence of traffic controls, regular chp presence and the frequency of roadside activity, this proposal appears inconsistent with the realities of the area.

The current 45 mph limit better reflects the mixed-use nature of Kyburz, where vehicle traffic, pedestrian activity, and residential access must coexist. Raising the speed limit would prioritize through-traffic efficiency at the expense of community safety.

I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider this proposal and maintain the existing 45 mph speed limit through Kyburz. Protecting the safety of residents, children, and visitors should remain the highest priority. As an affected resident unable to attend the hearing due to a medical procedure on that day I request that my email be heard regarding this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Kendra and James Ussery
Kyburz, California

#53 26-0527 public comment
BOS Revd 4/20/26

Kendra and James Ussery
Po Box 89
Kyburz, Ca. 95720

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane
Building A
Board of Supervisors Chambers
Placerville, Ca. 95667

April 11, 2026

RE: Highway 50 Speed Limit Increase Proposal (Kyburz Area)

To Whom it may Concern,

Regarding the upcoming public hearing on April 21st proposing increasing the speed limit through a residential area of highway 50, We are writing in strong opposition to the proposed increase of the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph on Highway 50 through the town of Kyburz.

Kyburz is not simply a stretch of open highway—it is a small, active community with approximately 130+ residents, including both year-round and seasonal occupants. Despite its size, the town serves as a hub for both local life and tourism, and the current roadway conditions reflect that reality.

Within this short corridor, Kyburz includes a K-8 school, a post office, a convenience store and gas station, two restaurants, a motel, the Kyburz Lodge and the tire chain business. In addition, there are multiple residential roads that connect directly to Highway 50, with no stop signs, turn lanes or traffic signals on the highway to regulate entry or crossing. Residents, including children, must frequently access the highway for daily activities.

Equally important, Kyburz is a well-known destination for outdoor recreation. There is a popular hiking and climbing area where parking is located directly alongside the highway, requiring visitors to cross Highway 50 on foot. Nearby, a campground and swimming area draw significant seasonal foot traffic, with tourists often walking along the shoulder of the highway to reach local businesses. These conditions create a steady presence of pedestrians in an environment already constrained by limited visibility, blind turns, narrow shoulders, and natural terrain.

At the east end of the 45 mph zone, there is a blind curve where Kyburz Drive accesses Highway 50 along with two residential driveways. Many residents already try to avoid using this access point due to limited sight distance and the existing safety risks, even at current speeds, however there are residents and their subsequent visitors, delivery personnel, etc. who must enter and leave the highway at this blind curve. In addition, businesses along the highway lack designated turn lanes, requiring vehicles to slow or stop directly in the travel lane. The local Caltrans yard also regularly operates very large and slow-moving vehicles and equipment that must enter and exit the highway within this same zone, again without the benefit of a turning lane. These conditions frequently cause highway traffic to slow or stop unexpectedly. Increasing the speed limit in an area with known visibility limitations and frequent speed differentials between vehicles will substantially increase the likelihood and severity of collisions.

Increasing the speed limit by 10 mph in this context would significantly elevate the risk of serious injury or fatality. Higher speeds reduce driver reaction time, increase stopping distances, and magnify the severity of collisions—particularly involving pedestrians. Response times for accidents in our community can be as long as 30 minutes or more as conditions stand currently. Given the absence of traffic controls, regular chp presence and the frequency of roadside activity, this proposal appears inconsistent with the realities of the area.

The current 45 mph limit better reflects the mixed-use nature of Kyburz, where vehicle traffic, pedestrian activity, and residential access must coexist. Raising the speed limit would prioritize through-traffic efficiency at the expense of community safety.

We respectfully urge the committee to reconsider this proposal and maintain the existing 45 mph speed limit through Kyburz. Protecting the safety of residents, children, and visitors should remain the highest priority. As an affected resident unable to attend the hearing due to a medical procedure on that day we request that our concerns be heard, via this letter, regarding this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Kendra & James Ussery

Kyburz California



public comment BOS Road
#53 26-0527 4/20/26

 Outlook

Kyburz speed limit increase

From LaVonne Monroe <monroelavonne@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/20/2026 10:51 AM

To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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Dear Board of Supervisors:

Please do NOT allow an increase to the speed limit on Highway 50 through Kyburz. The 45 mph zone is needed to slow drivers down through our community. As is, there have been many accidents, including fatal ones, in the past year. These accidents are not included in your report. Every time I hear sirens on 50, I pray for the people getting help. Unfortunately, in December 2025, an accident left two children orphans. Speed is a killer on Highway 50. To increase the speed limit shows a lack of empathy for the safety of the people on the highway.

It also shows you don't care about the safety of the residents of Kyburz. We have to drive Highway 50 to go to our Post Office at the Kyburz Inn. That puts us exiting and entering the highway in the same area where you want to increase the speed limit. Our safety matters, as well.

What should be done is an increase in CHP visibility in Kyburz. Just because drivers aren't obeying the traffic laws, doesn't mean the unsafe drivers should "win" the privilege of driving faster and making our community unsafe.

Please do not increase the speed limit in Kyburz. Thank you for taking my voice into consideration.

LaVonne Monroe
1321 Silver Fork Ave.
Kyburz, CA 95720
Sent from my iPhone

#53 26-0527 public comment
BOS Recd 4/20/26

 Outlook

Raising the speed limit from 45 mph to 55 mph

From John MARRS <kyburzwater@gmail.com>
Date Mon 4/20/2026 3:33 PM
To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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Dear Board Members:

I am John MARRS, Vice President and Watermaster of Kyburz Mutual Water Company. I am responsible for maintaining the water infrastructure that follows Highway 50 through Kyburz and have first hand experience working within a few feet of the highway doing maintenance, exercising fire hydrant valves and doing inspections. Much of our work is done by local volunteers who are already risking their lives with the existing minimal observance of the 45 mph speed limit. Increasing the speed limit greatly increases the likelihood people will be regularly doing 70 mph and more through town. With a blind corner at the east end of town and gentle turns on the straighter portions obstructing vision it is very hazardous now for those of us who work for KMWC. Raising the speed limit greatly increases the likelihood for our people of getting hurt or killed. Highway 50 regularly sees people getting killed in vehicle accidents caused by excessive speed. Please keep our workers, and locals safer by keeping the speed limit at 45 mph.

Sincerely,

John MARRS
Kyburz Mutual Water Company
11651 Kyburz Drive

Sent from John