



Opposition to Proposed Speed Limit Increase on Highway 50 through Kyburz

From Branden Sievers <branden.j.sievers@gmail.com>
Date Mon 4/20/2026 5:12 PM
To BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

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Dear Members of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I write in my capacity as President and Chief Executive Officer of Kyburz Mutual Water Company, a 501(c)(12) mutual water utility serving the Kyburz community in El Dorado County. Following careful consideration, our Board of Directors has unanimously voted to oppose the proposed increase in the speed limit along Highway 50 through our service area.

Our opposition is grounded in several practical and immediate concerns tied directly to the operation, maintenance, and financial sustainability of our water system.

First, an increase in vehicle speeds will almost certainly lead to higher rates of damage to our infrastructure. Our distribution system—including pipelines, valves, and hydrants—runs in close proximity to the highway corridor. Higher-speed traffic increases both the frequency and severity of vehicle-related incidents, including collisions, roadway departures, and debris impact. Each such event carries a tangible cost: emergency repairs, system downtime, and unplanned capital expenditures. These costs are ultimately borne by our ratepayers.

Second, the safety of our personnel and volunteers is a primary concern. Our system is maintained in large part by individuals working within feet of live traffic, often in constrained conditions with limited visibility. Increasing the posted speed limit will reduce driver reaction time and significantly elevate the risk to workers performing essential duties such as inspections, repairs, and fire hydrant maintenance. This is not a theoretical concern—it is an operational reality we face on a routine basis.

Third, increased speeds introduce additional liability exposure for our organization. As incidents become more likely and more severe, the risk profile for our operations changes. This can lead to increased insurance costs, potential claims, and broader financial exposure, all of which impact our ability to provide affordable and reliable water service.

Finally, we note that opposition to this proposal is not limited to our Board. We have heard consistent concerns from members of the community we serve. Residents value the current speed limit as a necessary measure to preserve safety in a small, rural environment with unique geographic constraints. The proposed increase is widely viewed as inconsistent with those priorities.

For these reasons—heightened infrastructure risk, worker safety concerns, increased liability exposure, and clear community opposition—we respectfully urge the Board to maintain the current speed limit through Kyburz.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued service to El Dorado County.

Sincerely,

Branden Sievers

President and Chief Executive Officer

Kyburz Mutual Water Company

DATE 4/21/2026



Public Comment - Proposed Hwy 50 Speed Limit - Kyburz Area - Opposed

From Gary <garypitkin@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/20/2026 8:38 PM

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

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Board of Supervisors,

I am writing you, to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors, to adamantly oppose the proposed increase to the speed limit on Highway 50 (Hwy 50) in the Kyburz area.

My opinions are based on personal experiences and that of someone who spent a career in public safety.

In Kyburz, we have a Post Office, Cafe and Lodge along the southern shoulder of Highway 50. Additionally, a motel also sits on the south side of Highway 50 adjacent to the Kyburz Lodge. To the locals and patrons, we know walking from the parking lots alongside the businesses for purposes of ingress and egress is stressful and potentially dangerous during times of heavy traffic.

Furthermore, with heavy tree cover to the west of town and tree cover and roadway bend at the east end of town, residents and patrons pulling their vehicles out of the commercial parking lots and post office in Kyburz and Oriole Drive onto Hwy 50 face sufficient stress merging onto Hwy 50 at the current speed limits. Increasing the speed limit will only exacerbate our current safety concerns.

Likewise, motorists entering and exiting the national forest using Silver Fork Road and merging onto Hwy 50 face the same safety concerns for the same reasons.

Additionally, for residents and visitors using Kyburz Drive, crossing the westbound lane of traffic and entering eastbound Hwy 50 from both the west and east extensions of Kyburz Drive is sufficiently stressful, especially during times of heavy traffic. Specifically, entering Hwy 50 from the east extension of Kyburz Drive is already dangerous because of the short approach, obstructed views, and high speeds of vehicles approaching from the blind curve east of the intersection. Increasing the speed limit in this section would exacerbate safety concerns.

In fact, many locals (myself included) already refuse to exit the eastbound extension of Kyburz Drive onto Hwy 50 because of these concerns, instead opting to drive around to the west extension of Kyburz Drive and entering Hwy 50 there.

Lastly, we have many homeowners who reside along the highway who would be unduly endangered to vehicles passing at higher speeds, as they enter & exit Hwy 50 from their driveways and side roads.

Increasing Hwy 50's speed limit thru the Kyburz area is an unwise safety concern at best and a fatal error at worst. As the famous risk manager Gordon Graham said, "If it's predictable, it's preventable."

Gary Pitkin
13840 Hillbilly Lane
Kyburz, CA. 95720

The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing. - Sir Edmund Burke