



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

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April 15, 2025

Senate Transportation Committee
State Capitol, Room 405
Sacramento, CA 95814

Submitted via the Legislative Position Letter Portal

Support for SB 569 (Blakespear): Department of Transportation: Homeless Encampments.

Dear Honorable Senate Transportation Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of La Verne, I am writing to express our strong support for SB 569, which would require the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to coordinate with local governments to address homeless encampments on state-managed property, including the establishment of district advisory committees, joint action plans, and dedicated liaison offices.

State-owned right-of-way areas adjacent to the freeway have become long-term sites for encampments, often persisting for months. Despite the health and safety concerns these encampments pose to both the unhoused and the surrounding community, the City lacks the jurisdictional authority to act. This has created confusion, inaction, and deep concern among our residents and businesses—who do not distinguish between city and state land, but who expect results.

SB 569 is a timely and necessary solution. By requiring Caltrans to collaborate directly with local governments, assign dedicated liaisons, and develop joint action plans, the bill brings clarity and shared responsibility to an issue that too often falls through the cracks. Additionally, it honors the intent of Governor Newsom's 2024 executive order by treating homelessness with dignity while empowering cities and the state to act swiftly and strategically.

We urge the Legislature to pass SB 569 and thank you for your leadership in championing legislation that gives local governments a voice and a partner in addressing homelessness on state land.

Sincerely,

Tim Hepburn
Mayor