



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.5

MEETING DATE: 05/06/2025

DEPARTMENT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Vanessa Delgado

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Henie Ring

SUBJECT:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Approve Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 518 (Ward), Low Impact Camping Areas and authorize the Chair to sign.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 156

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

Assembly Bill 518 is critical to expanding access to the outdoors across California, supporting rural tourism economies, achieving the state's conservation and biodiversity goals, and diversifying income for farmers and ranchers. By creating a new framework for camping known as "low-impact camping areas" at the state level, AB 518 cuts through red tape and allows for local governments who opt in to better regulate small-scale camping on private land.

Outdoor recreation hit a record high in past years with more than 20 million Californians getting outside annually, representing \$81.5 billion in value added to the California economy in 2023. But more than half of all campers report difficulty finding available campsites. There are too few outdoor recreation accommodations for Californians and visitors, and this bottleneck is having negative impacts on outdoor access, rural economies, and recreation businesses. With reports that nearly 4,000 additional campsites could close across California this year due to federal budget cuts, local communities need as many tools in their toolbox to manage demand for camping and support their outdoor recreation economies.

AB 518 addresses these issues by removing duplicative and expensive state development

requirements and permitting barriers, giving local governments the chance to opt into creating permitting pathways for rural and agricultural landowners to host safe and responsible low-impact recreation on their properties.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

No

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Approve Letter of Support for Assembly Bill 518 (Ward), Low Impact Camping Areas and authorize the Chair to sign.

ATTACHMENTS:

[AB 518 Letter of Support San Benito County](#)