



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

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Randy Rowse
Mayor

May 27, 2025

City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
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The Honorable Catherine Blakespear
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7720
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 569 (Blakespear): Department of Transportation: Homeless Encampments
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support**

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1990
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Dear Senator Blakespear:

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, I am pleased to express our strong support for Senate Bill 569, which would establish a framework for improved coordination between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and local governments in addressing homeless encampments on state-owned property. SB 569 is a pragmatic and humane step toward resolving encampments in a manner that centers both public safety and compassionate service delivery.

Santa Barbara, like many California cities, has experienced a significant increase in the number of individuals living unsheltered, including in areas under Caltrans jurisdiction. While our City continues to invest in housing, outreach, and supportive services, local governments lack the authority and capacity to manage encampments on state property without direct coordination and cooperation from Caltrans. SB 569 helps bridge that gap.

Specifically, the bill would require Caltrans to designate a dedicated liaison responsible for facilitating timely communication and collaboration with cities and counties. It would also direct the Department to develop joint action plans with local governments across each district and authorize delegated maintenance agreements to support shared responsibilities. These agreements could cover a range of activities, from encampment abatement and trash removal to environmental restoration and outreach, with the potential for state reimbursement where appropriated.

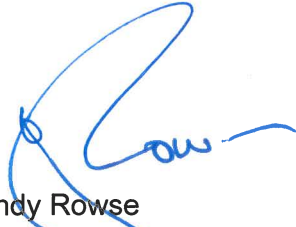
We especially appreciate that SB 569 recognizes the need for both local flexibility and state-level consistency. The bill also encourages prioritization of encampments posing environmental hazards, such as those in high-fire-risk areas—an issue of growing concern for coastal and foothill communities like Santa Barbara.

Moreover, by creating district-level advisory committees and requiring annual reports to the Legislature, SB 569 ensures transparency, stakeholder input, and ongoing evaluation of the effectiveness of this collaborative model.

Addressing homelessness on Caltrans property requires coordinated, multi-agency solutions. SB 569 provides a thoughtful framework to support this goal, while respecting the on-the-ground realities faced by cities and counties across California.

For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara supports SB 569 and thanks you for your continued leadership on issues at the intersection of homelessness, public infrastructure, and community well-being.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rowse", with a large, stylized initial "R" that loops back.

Mayor Randy Rowse
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senator Monique Limón
Assemblymember Gregg Hart