

**Mayor**  
Willard Rodarmel  
**Mayor Pro Tem**  
John Plourde  
**Council Members**  
John Gordon  
John Murray  
William Siegel



**Police  
Department**

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**Staff Report**

ITEM NO. 3F

**To: Lemoore City Council**  
**From: Jeff Laws, Chief of Police**  
**Date: June 1, 2011**  
**Subject: AB 529- Local Control of Speed Limits**

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**Discussion:**

AB 529 seeks to amend the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) Section 2b13 to allow local governments to round speed limits down to within 10 kilometers per hour or 5 miles per hour of the 85th percentile of the speed on the road.

The process of setting speed limits in California is established in the MUTCD, in conjunction with a federal MUTCD published by the Federal Highway Administration. The California MUTCD is published and amended by the California Traffic Control Devices Committee (CTCDC), in consultation with local agencies and public hearings.

In 2004, the CTCDC changed the wording on setting speed limits in the California MUTCD to read that the speed limit on a road where the speed limit is not otherwise governed by state or federal law, "should be established at the nearest 5 mph increment of the 85th percentile." This change did not reflect a traffic engineering suggestion, but was adopted to preempt a policy change in the Federal MUTCD. The Federal change, however, never happened. Prior to the 2004 change to the California MUTCD, local government could set speed limits within 5 mph of the 85th percentile, allowing local governments to round speed limits down, but only if they are able to demonstrate the need to do so. Providing written evidence to courts that proves that speed limits be lowered has proven difficult for local governments, yet the idea of raising speed limits remains onerous to city councils and officials who are concerned for public safety.

**Budget Impact:**

None.

**Recommendation:**

That the City Council, by motion, authorizes the Mayor to sign the attached letter of support for AB 529.