

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1479 (Tangipa)

As Amended June 23, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Authorizes the Board of Supervisors of Madera and Tehama Counties to transfer duties of the Road Commissioner to the County Director of the Department of Public Works.

Senate Amendments

Allow Tehama County to abolish the office of road commissioner in the same manner as Madera County.

COMMENTS

Background. State law creates the Office of Road Commissioner in each county and, except in San Francisco, requires every person who is appointed as a Road Commissioner to be a civil engineer. A Road Commissioner must annually submit to the county board of supervisors a tentative road budget covering all proposed expenditures for county road purposes. In conformity with the board of supervisors' adopted policies and budget, the Road Commissioner manages personnel, equipment, and expenditures related to county road work.

Any county can abolish the Office of Road Commissioner if the board transfers all of the Road Commissioner's duties to the county Director of Transportation [AB 247, (Hayden), Chapter 83, Statutes of 1979]. The Director of Transportation is not required to have any special permit, registration, or license. Any civil engineering functions that are required to be performed by the Road Commissioner must be performed by a registered civil engineer acting under the authority of the Director of Transportation.

Prior Legislation. SB 207 (Dahle), Chapter 24, Statutes of 2022, authorized the Board of Supervisors of Siskiyou County to transfer the duties of the Road Commissioner to the County Director of the Department of Public Works.

SB 79 (Nielsen) Chapter 33, Statutes of 2021, authorized the Board of Supervisors of Colusa County and the Board of Supervisors of Glenn County to transfer the duties of the County Road Commissioner to the County Director of the Department of Public Works.

SB 907 (Canella), Chapter 135, Statutes of 2018, authorized the Board of Supervisors of Merced County to abolish the Office of Road Commissioner if it transfers all of the Road Commissioner's duties to the County Director of the Department of Public Works.

AB 807 (Carpenter), Chapter 426, Statutes of 1975, authorized the Board of Supervisors of Orange County to abolish the Office of Road Commissioner if it transfers all of the Road Commissioner's duties to an environmental management agency.

According to the Author

"AB 1479 is a simple measure to streamline county operations and reduce unnecessary expenses. The bill allows the County Board of Supervisors to eliminate the County Road Commissioner position and transfer its responsibilities to the Director of Public Works. For years, Madera and

Tehama Counties have relied on Public Works for these duties, but outdated requirements have forced costly outsourcing of the Road Commissioner role. This inefficiency wastes taxpayer dollars without benefiting residents. AB 1479 ensures fiscal responsibility, strengthens county services, and modernizes governance to better serve Madera and Tehama Counties and their needs."

Arguments in Support

According to Madera County, "Consistent with recently granted authorities provided to other counties in the state, AB 1479 (Tangipa) would authorize the Madera County Board of Supervisors to abolish the office of the County Road Commissioner and transfer the duties of that office to the Director of Public Works.

"Over the last decade, the County has progressively empowered the Director of Public Works to provide these necessary services where possible under existing law. Further, because of recruitment and retention challenges, the county has often been forced to contract with outside entities for Road Commissioner services in order to comply with the requirements of existing law. This has created unnecessary taxpayer expense under current fiscally challenging circumstances. Maintaining quality services levels and standards has become more and more challenging for small to medium sized counties. We believe this bill is one step towards successfully meeting that challenge."

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

None.

VOTES:

ASM LOCAL GOVERNMENT: 10-0-0

YES: Carrillo, Ta, Hoover, Pacheco, Ramos, Ransom, Blanca Rubio, Stefani, Ward, Wilson

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 75-0-4

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Chen, Gallagher, Harabedian, Lackey

SENATE FLOOR: 35-0-5

YES: Allen, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNERney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Alvarado-Gil, Becker, Padilla, Reyes, Umberg

UPDATED

VERSION: June 23, 2025

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FN: 0001153