

The Board of Supervisors

County Administration Building
1025 Escobar St., 4th floor
Martinez, California 94553

John Gioia, 1st District
Candace Andersen, 2nd District
Diane Burgis, 3rd District
Ken Carlson, 4th District
Shanelle Scales-Preston, 5th District

Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 655-2075

March 18, 2025

The Honorable Isaac Bryan
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
1020 N Street, Room 164
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 274 (Ransom) – Abandoned and Derelict Vessels: Inventory – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bryan:

On behalf of the Contra Costa County, I write in strong support of AB 274, introduced by Assemblymember Ransom, which seeks to address the ongoing issue of abandoned and derelict commercial and recreational vessels within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This bill is a crucial step toward protecting the Delta's waterways, ensuring navigational safety, and preserving the ecological health of this vital region.

These vessels often pose hazards to navigation, contribute to pollution, and degrade the natural habitat that supports diverse wildlife and a thriving local economy. California's waterways (particularly in the Delta) are polluted with commercial abandoned derelict vessels, which contain high levels of hazardous materials from both their construction and use, including petroleum products (i.e., fuel, oil, oily waste, hydraulic fluid and grease), solvents, asbestos-containing materials, polychlorinated biphenyls, lead paint, and batteries. In addition, abandoned vessels provide habitat for invasive species, including golden mussels. By requiring the State Lands Commission to create an inventory of these vessels by January 1, 2027, AB 274 provides a necessary foundation for future removal efforts and policy solutions.

Specifically, this bill will:

- Establish a comprehensive record of abandoned and derelict vessels in the Delta, including their locations, estimated size, and weight.
- Assist local and state agencies in prioritizing the removal of hazardous vessels.
- Improve safety for recreational and commercial navigation.
- Support long-term strategies for the management and prevention of abandoned vessels in California's waterways.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a critical natural and economic resource for the state, providing water, recreation, and commercial benefits. AB 274 is a proactive and necessary measure to address this issue effectively.

For these reasons, we write in support of AB 274 and respectfully request an “aye” vote when the bill comes before the Assembly Natural Resources Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
 Honorable Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
 Monica Nino, County Administrator
 Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
 Ryan Hernandez, Principal Planner, Contra Costa County Water Agency
 Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer
 Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies



March 13, 2025

The Honorable Liz Ortega
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5120
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **AB 339 (Ortega): Local public employee organizations: notice requirements**
As introduced 1/28/25 – OPPOSE
Set for hearing 3/19/25 – Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee

Dear Assembly Member Ortega:

On behalf of the Urban Counties of California (UCC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), Association of California Healthcare Districts (ACHD), California Special Districts Association (CSDA), League of California Cities (CalCities), Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and Management (PRISM), Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC), California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), Contra Costa County, Lake County, Merced County, Placer County, Sacramento County, San Joaquin County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, South San Joaquin Irrigation District, American Council of Engineering Companies of California, California Geotechnical Engineering Association (CalGeo), the American Institute of Architects California, Transportation California, and California Building Officials (CALBO), we write in respectful opposition to your Assembly Bill 339. This measure would require the governing body of a local public agency (non-school) to provide written notice to the employee organization no less than 120 days prior to issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending an existing contract to perform services that are within the scope of work of the job classifications represented by the recognized employee organization. AB 339 would be impractical in its execution,

is unworkable for ensuring provision of public services, and disincentivizes reaching final agreement in local labor negotiations.

AB 339 applies to **any** contract that is within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization; for local agencies with represented workforces, this essentially means nearly every contract would be subject to notice and possible meet and confer. This provision is considerably broader than the existing requirement for bargaining under the Meyers-Milias Brown Act (MMBA); under existing law, where contracting out is legally permissible, local agencies are still required to “meet and confer in good faith” with any affected bargaining unit prior to making any decision **that is within the scope of representation**. (Gov. Code, §§ 3505.) However, there are several common-sense exceptions to this requirement – including where there is a longstanding past practice of contracting for particular services, or where contracting out is contemplated in the applicable MOU. AB 339 subverts these well-settled principles to the detriment of local public services.

The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority; further, this provision only applies to the initial notice requirement – not the meet and confer provisions – making the provision nearly meaningless in an emergency circumstance. You are undoubtedly aware of the considerable responsibility assumed by local agencies in a natural disaster, public health emergency, or other local crisis. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for considerable flexibility to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities.

AB 339 also undermines the existing provisions of the MMBA that ensure that negotiating parties can reach a final agreement on an MOU. Under the section of the measure that authorizes reopening negotiations indefinitely, there is no benefit to employers to finalize negotiations and close on an agreement and, as a result, no labor peace.

AB 339 deters local agencies from working in partnership with local community organizations, who are at the front lines of providing critical local services, and who are already under attack by the federal government, adding considerable uncertainty to their ongoing financial viability.

Finally, sponsors continue to assert that documents associated with a Request for Proposals (RFP), Request for Quotes (RFQ), contract extensions, and contract renewals are not disclosed to the public. In truth, RFPs and RFQs are typically public by nature and subject to competitive bidding processes and regulations, while contracts are almost always disclosable public records under the Public Records Act. We dispute that local agencies are inappropriately withholding public records and further disagree that local agencies are failing to comply with existing notification requirements under the MMBA. If either were true, there are already existing remedies for sponsors to address these issues.

Like previous unsuccessful proposals that have sought to undermine local agencies’ ability to contract for public services, AB 339 represents a sweeping change to the fundamental work of local governments, but we remain unaware of a specific, current, and widespread problem that this measure would resolve or prevent. We are keenly aware, though, of the very real harm that could result from this measure. AB 339 will not improve services, reduce costs, or protect employees. As a result, we are opposed. Should you have any questions about our position, please reach out directly.

Sincerely,



Jean Kinney Hurst
Legislative Advocate
Urban Counties of California



Sarah Dukett
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California



Aaron Avery
Director of State Legislative Affairs
California Special Districts Association



Jason Schmelzer
Legislative Advocate
Public Risk Innovation, Solutions, and
Management



Farrah McDaid Ting
Deputy Director of Policy
County Health Executives Association of
California



Candace Andersen
Chair, Contra Costa County Board of
Supervisors



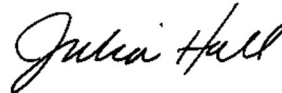
Eric Lawyer
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties



Sarah Bridge
Legislative Advocate
Association of California Healthcare Districts



Johnnie Pina
Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist
League of California Cities



Julia Bishop Hall
Director of State Legislative Relations
Association of California Water Agencies



Cory M. Salzillo
Legislative Director
California State Sheriffs' Association



Susan Parker
County Administrative Officer
County of Lake



Joshua Pedrozo
Chairman
Merced County Board of Supervisors



Bonnie Gore
Chair (District 1)
Placer County Board of Supervisors



Elisia De Bord
Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer
County of Sacramento



Paul Canepa
Chair
San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors



Connie Juárez-Diroll
Chief Legislative Officer
County of San Mateo



Erin Evans-Fudem
Legislative Deputy County Counsel
Office of the County Counsel
County of Santa Clara



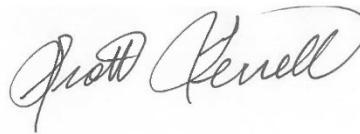
Peter M. Rietkerk
General Manager
South San Joaquin Irrigation District



Tyler Munzing
Director of Government Affairs
American Council of Engineering Companies of
California



Noah Smith, PE, GE
President
California Geotechnical Engineering
Association



Scott Terrell
Director of Government Relations
The American Institute of Architects California



Mark Watts
Legislative Advocate
Transportation California



Matthew Wheeler, DPPD
Executive Director
California Building Officials (CALBO)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Buddy Mendes".

Buddy Mendes, Chairman
Fresno County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Tina McKinnor, Chair, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement
Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee

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Contra Costa County



Monica Nino
Clerk of the Board
and
County Administrator
(925) 655-2075

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Senator Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Senator Umberg
Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 7510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body – SUPPORT

Dear Chair Durazo:

As Chair of the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County, I write to express our support for Senate Bill 239 (Arreguín), which would help expand public participation in advisory bodies by providing additional meeting flexibility for advisory bodies.

Contra Costa County has established more than 75 advisory boards, committees, and commissions to help ensure public input on a wide range of County responsibilities. Advisory bodies expand the dialogue between the public and the County government and enhance the quality of life for our residents. Without teleconferencing opportunities, participation can be limited for seniors, those with disabilities, mobility needs, childcare or caregiving responsibilities, financial constraints, or transportation issues, to name a few of the many other challenges that arise in the everyday lives of our residents. By allowing teleconference participation, we are better able to ensure opportunities for public participation and representation.

SB 239 would address these problems by allowing members to participate in meetings remotely without posting their home address or making it available to the public. The measure would improve transparency and ease of participation by the public by ensuring that meetings are available both in person and remotely whenever a member participates remotely or in person.

Existing law requires local bodies to publish and publicly notice opportunities to participate in and serve on local regulatory and advisory boards, commissions, and committees under the Local Appointments List. However, merely informing the public of the opportunity to engage

is not enough: addressing barriers to entry to achieve diverse representation in leadership furthers California's declared goals of equal access and equal opportunity.

SB 239 will improve public accessibility in advisory body meetings by requiring meetings to be held online when a member participates remotely and requires an in-person meeting location for the public, regardless of how many members participate remotely. The bill also requires approval by both the legislative body that establishes an advisory body and the advisory body itself.

SB 239 will modernize the Brown Act for advisory bodies and improve representation by diverse communities, while maintaining critical public accountability of their local government decision making. For these reasons, Contra Costa County respectfully requests your support for SB 239.

Sincerely,



CANDACE ANDERSEN

Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Honorable Members, Senate Local Government Committee
Honorable Members, Senate Judiciary Committee
Honorable Senator Jesse Arreguin
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Jami Morritt, Chief Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Michelle Rubalcava & Geoff Neill, Nielsen Merksamer