



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

July 17, 2025

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

**RE: AB 339 (Ortega) – Local Public Employee Organizations Notice Requirement.
Notice of OPPOSITION (As amended May 23, 2025)**

Dear Assembly Member Ortega,

The City of Torrance must respectfully express our opposition to AB 339, which would require the governing body of a local public agency 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**. 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. 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.

AB 339 represents a sweeping change to the fundamental work of local governments and will not improve services, reduce costs, or protect employees.

For these reasons, the City of Torrance respectfully opposes AB 339 in its current form.

Sincerely,



George Chen
Mayor
City of Torrance

Cc: The Honorable Liz Ortega, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
Senator Ben Allen & Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi
Jeff Kiernan, League Regional Public Affairs Manager (via email)
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org