



CITY OF
T O R R A N C E

GEORGE K. CHEN
MAYOR

October 9, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Request for Veto – AB 339 (Ortega): Local Public Employee Organizations Notice Requirement

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Torrance, I respectfully urge you to veto Assembly Bill 339 (Ortega), which would require the governing body of a local public agency to provide written notice to an 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 within the scope of work of represented job classifications.

While the City of Torrance values strong labor relations and open communication with our employee organizations, AB 339 would be impractical in its execution, unworkable for ensuring the timely provision of public services, and would disincentivize reaching final agreement in local labor negotiations.

AB 339 applies broadly to any contract that is within the scope of work of any represented job classification. For agencies like Torrance, with a largely represented workforce, this would mean nearly every contract could be subject to notice and potential meet-and-confer requirements. This goes far beyond the existing obligations under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA). Under current law, local agencies must already meet and confer in good faith with affected bargaining units before making decisions within the scope of representation. However, longstanding exceptions exist where contracting is an established practice or contemplated within an existing MOU. AB 339 disregards these well-settled principles, creating unnecessary barriers that will hinder the delivery of essential public services.

The bill also lacks a meaningful definition of “emergency” or “exigent circumstances,” undermining emergency contracting authority that local governments rely on to protect public safety and respond to crises. Further, AB 339’s provisions allowing indefinite reopening of negotiations remove incentives for parties to reach final agreement, ultimately jeopardizing labor stability.

In addition, AB 339 would deter local agencies from collaborating with community-based organizations that play a vital role in delivering critical local services.

Honorable Gavin Newson
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For these reasons, the City of Torrance strongly urges you not to sign AB 339 into law. The bill represents a sweeping and unnecessary change to established labor relations practices and will not enhance service delivery, reduce costs, or better protect public employees.

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