



**COUNTY OF LAKE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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June 17, 2025

Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas  
Chair, Senate Committee on Labor, Public Employment, and Retirement  
1021 O Street, Room 6740  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 339 (Ortega) Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice  
Requirements  
As Amended 5/23/25  
County of Lake: OPPOSE**

Dear Chair Smallwood-Cuevas:

On behalf of the County of Lake, we write to respectfully oppose Assemblymember Ortega's legislation, AB 339, which would require the governing body of a public agency, board, and commission to give a recognized employee organization written notice regarding contracts to perform services that are within the scope of work of job classifications represented by the organized employee organization.

AB 339 is unworkable for ensuring provision of public services, and disincentivizes reaching final agreement in local labor negotiations. This measure would apply 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 that 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); AB 339 subverts 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. Local agencies assume considerable

responsibility 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.

Public works projects involve multiple phases of design, which require a diverse array of services that are not fully known until earlier phases have completed, making it impossible for agencies to complete all of AB 339's notification pauses at the outset of a project. These notices would therefore be compounded, causing projects to be delayed by multiples of the 120-day pause before a shovel ever touches the ground.

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

For these reasons, the County of Lake respectfully opposes AB 339.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF LAKE

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Eddie Crandell  
Chair, Board of Supervisors