



PEGGY LEMONS
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Councilmember

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Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

July 3, 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 amended 5/23/25) - OPPOSE

Dear Assembly Member Ortega,

The City of Paramount must respectfully **oppose 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. In Paramount, our Public Safety Department coordinates closely with

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the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and maintains a trained Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) to respond swiftly to natural disasters, public health threats, and infrastructure failures. Delays in contracting for emergency services—such as debris removal, temporary shelter, or medical support—could jeopardize lives and public safety.

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. In Paramount, our only bargaining unit—Teamsters Local 911—represents a small number of non-management employees. The City has worked diligently to build trust and reach timely agreements that reflect fiscal responsibility and employee well-being. AB 339 would introduce unnecessary uncertainty into this process, making it harder to maintain stable labor relations and plan long-term service delivery.

AB 339 deters local agencies from working in partnership with local community organizations, who are at the front lines of providing critical local services. Paramount has a strong track record of collaboration with nonprofits such as City Net and the Salvation Army Bell Shelter to address homelessness, provide housing navigation, and deliver wraparound services. These partnerships are often nimble and time-sensitive, requiring the City to act quickly to secure contracts and funding. The bill's rigid notice and negotiation requirements would hinder our ability to respond to community needs and support vulnerable populations.

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 Paramount respectfully **opposes AB 339**. Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We appreciate your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peggy Lemons", written over the printed name.

Peggy Lemons
Mayor

CC. Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District
Kristine Guerrero, Public Affairs Director, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association