



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

September 18, 2025

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

Re: Request for Veto of SB 79 (Wiener) – City of Paramount Opposition

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the City of Paramount, I respectfully urge you to veto SB 79. Paramount has been directly misrepresented throughout the legislative process surrounding this bill, and our residents' voices and local circumstances have been overlooked.

For years, the City has been deeply engaged with our residents through community meetings, workshops, and formal planning processes. The people of Paramount have been clear about their concerns regarding large-scale, State-mandated housing projects that would be imposed without regard to local context. SB 79 would disregard the will of our residents and the thoughtful planning we have undertaken together.

Our Housing Element (2021–2029) was adopted in March 2022 and certified by the Department of Housing and Community Development in October 2022. In addition, Paramount has developed and implemented specific plans to accommodate new housing and is actively working with HCD toward a Prohousing Designation. These actions demonstrate our commitment to doing our fair share in addressing California's housing crisis. Yet, despite this record, SB 79 paints Paramount and similar cities as obstacles, when in fact we have been proactive and collaborative. Importantly, Paramount is already one of the most densely populated communities in California, which means that additional large-scale development imposed by SB 79 would create outsized impacts on our infrastructure, neighborhoods, and quality of life.

This legislation represents a troubling lack of consideration for local officials across California. Instead of case-by-case evaluation of cities' good-faith efforts, SB 79 imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that transfers land use authority to transit agencies—entities with no accountability to local residents. By overriding General Plans, zoning ordinances, and years of community-driven policymaking, the State undermines the very partnerships necessary to address the housing crisis responsibly.

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.

16400 Colorado Avenue • Paramount, CA 90723-5012 • Ph: 562-220-2000 • paramountcity.gov

facebook.com/CityofParamount | instagram.com/paramount_posts | youtube.com/CityofParamount

We invite you to visit our city and walk our dense neighborhoods and see firsthand the unique challenges Paramount faces, including the limited infrastructure capacity, constrained land uses, and community character that would be jeopardized by SB 79. Paramount's circumstances require flexibility and collaboration, not a blunt statewide mandate that would create more disruption than housing. Too often, housing bills like SB 79 fail to provide individual cities the consideration they deserve from their legislators. This bill is yet another example where the voices of local leaders—who work face-to-face with your constituents on a daily basis—are not being fully heard.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that you veto SB 79. Paramount remains committed to supporting housing growth in a sustainable and community-centered way, and we look forward to working with your Administration to find better solutions that truly reflect the diversity of California's cities.

Thank you for your time and for your continued attention to our community. Should you or your staff wish to discuss this further, please contact our City Manager, John Moreno, at (562) 220-2222 or jmoreno@paramountcity.gov.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

cc: Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District
Nick Cabeza, Public Affairs Director, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs, California Contract Cities Association
Gonsalves & Son