



PEGGY LEMONS  
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS  
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO  
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO  
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS  
Councilmember

September 11, 2025

María Elena Durazo  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Room 7530  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 707 (Durazo) Open Meetings: Meeting and Teleconference Requirements  
Oppose Unless Amended**

Dear Senator Durazo,

The City of Paramount must respectfully oppose SB 707 unless it is amended. While our city strongly supports public transparency and accessibility, SB 707, as currently drafted, would impose costly and inequitable new mandates on cities like ours without providing the resources or flexibility needed for implementation.

SB 707 contains positive elements that recognize the need to modernize the Ralph M. Brown Act. However, its prescriptive requirements would create significant fiscal and operational challenges for our city, including:

- Providing two-way telephonic or audiovisual access for all meetings, halting proceedings during any service disruption.
- Designating a public space for community-submitted translations, even if inaccurate or misleading.

For the City of Paramount, these obligations would mean purchasing and maintaining a new audiovisual system capable of uninterrupted two-way access for all public meetings—an upgrade estimated to cost **over \$30,000**, not including ongoing IT support and redundancy safeguards. Additionally, our city would need to expand staffing to manage real-time translation, website updates, and outreach in multiple languages, despite already providing bilingual (English/Spanish) communications across platforms.

Because of Proposition 42 (2014), none of these requirements would be reimbursable, forcing Paramount to absorb all costs—diverting limited resources from other essential community programs and services.

Paramount has successfully implemented remote public comment options tailored to our community's needs, including hybrid formats and bilingual outreach. Retaining local discretion is critical to ensure flexibility, responsiveness, and fiscal sustainability. Mandating uniform remote access without regard for local capacity undermines our ability to serve residents effectively and equitably.

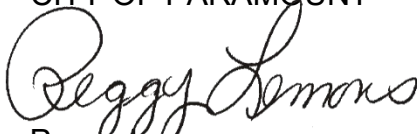
The bill also applies unevenly across California. Cities of similar size would be treated differently depending solely on county population. Adding to the imbalance, the state itself is not required to comply with the very rules being imposed on cities.

Finally, the January 1, 2026, implementation date does not give local governments sufficient time to budget, procure, and train for compliance. A minimum extension to **January 1, 2027** is essential to ensure cities can meet these requirements responsibly.

The City of Paramount remains committed to transparency and engaging the public in meaningful ways. We respectfully urge you to amend SB 707 to remove the most burdensome mandates, ensure equitable treatment of cities, and provide sufficient time and resources for compliance.

For these reasons the City of Paramount respectfully opposes SB 707 unless it is amended to address our concerns. 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



Peggy Lemons  
Mayor

CC. Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44<sup>th</sup> District  
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District  
Honorable Assemblymember Jose Luis Solache, 62nd District  
Nicholas Cabeza, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities  
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association