



PEGGY LEMONS
Mayor

BRENDA OLMOS
Vice Mayor

ISABEL AGUAYO
Councilmember

ANNETTE C. DELGADILLO
Councilmember

VILMA CUELLAR STALLINGS
Councilmember

February 10, 2026

The Honorable José Luis Solache
California State Assembly
1020 N St. Rm. 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1708 (Solache) HHAP Pathways for Cities Act.
Notice of SUPPORT (As Introduced 2/4/2026)**

Dear Assembly Member Solache,

The City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 1708 (Solache), which would create a new pathway for cities with populations under 300,000 to access state homelessness funding.

Since 2019, the state's flagship homelessness grant program, the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Grant program, has provided direct funding to cities with populations over 300,000, all 58 counties, and the 44 Continuums of Care (CoC) across California.

This structure has left most cities without a consistent pathway to access HHAP funding, despite investing significant General Fund resources to prevent and reduce homelessness in their communities. AB 1708 would address this by creating a new opportunity for the 469 California cities with populations under 300,000 to apply for HHAP funding through their CoC.

Specifically, AB 1708 would require CoCs, before allocating funding to other subrecipients in their region, to accept applications for 30 days only from cities with populations under 300,000. This measure would strike a reasonable balance between access and accountability, requiring interested cities to commit to regionally coordinated action plans and adhere to state housing and encampment policies.

AB 1708 would also require CoCs to prioritize applications from cities that have existing partnerships with non-profits, other cities, or have already leveraged state and local funding for existing projects in their communities. This would ensure that limited state resources are deployed efficiently and deliver measurable results in reducing homelessness.

The City of Paramount would benefit from additional state homelessness funding by expanding interim housing capacity, strengthening outreach and engagement efforts, and enhancing partnerships with regional service providers to better address encampments and connect residents to care. Paramount continues to respond to homelessness through a coordinated approach that includes proactive outreach, collaboration with the County and local nonprofits, participation in regional planning efforts, and investments in public safety and community wellness initiatives. In recent years, the City has invested significant General Fund resources to support homelessness response activities, including dedicated outreach services, encampment resolution efforts, motel voucher programs, and contributions to regional shelter and supportive housing projects.

As the Governor and the Legislature consider future investments in the HHAP program, it is important to ensure the program is structured to maximize its reach and impact. Providing all cities with a pathway to participate in HHAP would strengthen regional collaboration and ensure state resources are deployed where they can most effectively serve unhoused Californians.

Local governments are best positioned to identify the programs and partnerships that will have the greatest impact in our communities. AB 1708 recognizes this, creating a clearly defined opportunity for all cities to compete for state resources, so that communities of all sizes can have a meaningful role in the state's homelessness response efforts.

For these reasons, the City of Paramount is pleased to support AB 1708 (Solache). Please feel free to contact City Manager John Moreno at (562) 220-2225, if you have any questions. We thank you for your time and consideration.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT



Peggy Lemons
Mayor

Cc: Honorable Congresswoman Nanette Barragan, 44th District
Honorable State Senator Lena Gonzalez, 33rd District
Nicholas Cabeza, Public Affairs Manager, League of California Cities
Jorge Morales, Legislative and Governmental Affairs Consultant, California Contract Cities Association