



## COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

### Board of Supervisors

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March 11, 2025

The Honorable Tina McKinnor  
Chairwoman, Assembly Public Employment and Retirement Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 5520  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: AB 339 (Ortega) Local public employee organizations: notice requirements-  
OPPOSE**

Dear Chairwoman McKinnor:

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors strongly opposes AB 339 (Ortega), which imposes burdensome requirements on local agencies that contract with vital service providers, such as non-profits, community-based organizations, and private entities. The bill introduces extensive bureaucratic obligations that could undermine the delivery of essential services, particularly for California's most vulnerable populations, and place unnecessary strain on local governments already grappling with workforce shortages and fiscal uncertainty.

AB 339 requires local agencies to provide at least 120 days' notice before issuing requests for proposals (RFPs), renewing contracts, or entering into agreements with service providers. This notice must contain detailed information, including contract scope, cost, and justification for the contract. If the recognized employee organization requests it, agencies are required to meet and confer over the contract, which could lead to reopening negotiations on all or part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). These provisions are impractical, particularly in emergency situations where local agencies need to act quickly to respond to public needs, such as during natural disasters or public health crises. The requirement for such detailed notice and the potential for extended negotiations delays critical contracting processes, which could jeopardize the timely delivery of essential services.

Local agencies, which rely heavily on contractors to provide services in areas such as healthcare, public safety, and mental health, would face increased costs and greater difficulty in contracting under AB 339. Non-profits and other service providers may be discouraged from entering into agreements with local governments due to the complexity and risks associated with compliance. This would likely result in fewer available service providers, creating a gap in services and placing greater strain on existing public sector employees. Additionally, AB 339's requirements could expose sensitive information, raising concerns about privacy and security that might further deter contractors and service providers from engaging with local agencies.

The broad scope of AB 339, which applies to nearly every contract involving a recognized

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employee organization, would impose significant administrative burdens on local governments. Agencies would be forced to dedicate valuable resources to gathering, organizing, and distributing the detailed information required by the bill, diverting attention from more urgent and essential tasks. These added requirements could also lead to delays in the procurement process, potentially resulting in service disruptions for residents who rely on these services. There are times when Siskiyou County must rely on contracted services to meet critical needs that exceed our available resources or internal capacity. For instance, we frequently contract for specialized services such as outside legal counsel, psychiatric care, and essential public works activities. These contracts are not only vital to maintaining the county's operations but are often required by law. Unfortunately, the provisions of this bill would severely restrict our ability to procure these necessary services, thereby undermining our capacity to fulfill both mandated and essential community needs effectively.

It is important to note that local agencies are already subject to legal frameworks, such as the Meyers-Milius-Brown Act (MMBA), which governs the terms and conditions of public sector contracting. AB 339 is largely redundant and goes beyond the current legal requirements. It also introduces provisions that could lead to indefinite delays in reaching agreements, creating unnecessary friction between local agencies and employee organizations and undermining labor peace.

AB 339 represents a significant shift in how local governments can contract for essential services. While the bill's intentions may be well-meaning, its unintended consequences could harm both service providers and the residents who depend on their services. The bill introduces unnecessary complexity, delays, and privacy concerns that will make it harder for local governments to fulfill their statutory obligations and respond to community needs. For these reasons, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you to reject AB 339 when it is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

Signed by:



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Nancy Ogren  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Megan Dahle  
Assemblymember Heather Hadwick  
Rural County Representatives of California  
California State Association of Counties  
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lang