



## COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

### Board of Supervisors

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September 9, 2025

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

**Subject: AB 339 (Ortega), Revisions to contracting standards for local governments – REQUEST FOR VETO**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests that you veto AB 339 (Ortega). Even with recent amendments that claim to narrow its scope, the bill would still impose significant costs on local agencies. These include new notification requirements, vague provisions likely to generate conflict and litigation with labor partners, and delays in implementing programs and services. AB 339 will hinder critical local efforts such as homeless outreach, emergency medical response, and solid waste removal.

The recent exemption for certain public works projects demonstrates the bill's potential to delay essential services. If AB 339 did not create such delays, no exemptions would be necessary. As we have previously noted, there is no clear evidence of a widespread problem this bill seeks to resolve. Instead, it invites disputes and unnecessary barriers to service delivery.

Beyond the risk of service delays, the bill also imposes new obligations on local agencies that are already addressed in existing law. Employers already have a duty to notify labor organizations before contracting out work. Since AB 339 applies to any contract within the scope of work of any job classification represented by a recognized employee organization, nearly every contract in a local agency with a represented workforce would require notice. Existing law already provides administrative remedies when labor organizations believe a local agency has failed to meet notice or bargaining obligations. In such cases, agencies may face unfair labor practice charges before the Public Employment Relations Board. By duplicating these existing requirements, AB 339 would create unnecessary redundancy and impose additional costs on local governments.

The bill also leaves the definition of "emergency" unclear. The lack of definition of emergency or exigent circumstances in AB 339 undermines existing emergency contracting authority. As first responders, local agencies rely on existing statutes that allow for flexibility to respond quickly and effectively to protect public safety. This language only adds another opportunity for disagreement with our labor partners when local agencies need to focus available resources on response and recovery during an emergency.

Brandon Criss  
District 1

Ed Valenzuela  
District 2

Michael N. Kobseff  
District 3

Nancy Ogren  
District 4

Ray Haupt  
District 5



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AB 339 also comes at a particularly difficult time. State and local agencies are already grappling with a steep decline in federal support for vital programs and services. Now is not the time to weaken the ability of local governments to deliver safety net and quality of life services. Partnerships with local nonprofits, who are delivering essential services in the community, are crucial to maximizing limited resources and ensuring services reach those who need them most.

There is no evidence that AB 339's new requirements will improve outcomes, increase efficiency, or enhance quality of life in California communities. For these reasons, the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors respectfully urges you to veto this measure.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Nancy Ogren*

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Nancy Ogren  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

CC: Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors Shaw  
Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange  
Assemblywoman Heather Hadwick  
Senator Megan Dahle  
The Honorable Liz Ortega  
Rural County Representatives of California

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