



# CITY OF MERCED

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Liz Ortega  
Assembly Member, District 20  
1021 O Street, Room 5120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Assembly Bill 339 (Ortega) – OPPOSE—(As Amended June 18, 2025)**

Dear Assembly Member Ortega:

On behalf of the City of Merced, I write to respectfully express our opposition to Assembly Bill 339. While the City supports transparency and collaborative engagement with recognized employee organizations, we are concerned that the mandates imposed by this bill would significantly hinder our ability to respond efficiently to the evolving service needs of our residents.

AB 339 would require local agencies to provide at least 60 days' written notice to employee organizations prior to issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending a contract for services performed by bargaining unit members. This requirement imposes a one-size-fits-all approach to procurement and personnel planning. Cities often must adapt quickly to fiscal constraints, new policy directives, or emergency circumstances, and this bill would delay that responsiveness with inflexible procedural mandates.

Furthermore, the bill would require public agencies to engage in good faith negotiations not only over the impacts of a proposed contract but also over the decision to enter such contracts. This represents a significant expansion of existing labor law under the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act and threatens to entangle cities in prolonged negotiations that delay service delivery and burden local administrative capacity. While the bill includes provisions for emergency situations, the language is ambiguous and does not provide sufficient clarity for agencies to act decisively when time is of the essence.

In addition to these operational concerns, AB 339 creates the potential for increased local costs. Though the bill imposes a state-mandated program, it explicitly precludes automatic reimbursement under state law. Cities like Merced, which already operate with limited fiscal resources, would be left to absorb the costs of additional administrative procedures, legal review, and potential delays without any guaranteed financial support from the state.

The City of Merced values its workforce and upholds strong labor relations, but AB 339 would unnecessarily complicate the contracting process and reduce our ability to manage services efficiently on behalf of our constituents. For these reasons, we must respectfully oppose this legislation and urge



# CITY OF MERCED

**MERCED**

the Legislature to either reject AB 339 or amend it to allow for greater flexibility, clearer emergency protocols, and a more balanced approach to labor engagement.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Gonsalves at California Public Policy Group (916) 974-9270.

Sincerely,

Mayor,  
City of Merced

cc: Members and Staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Anna Caballero, Senate District 14  
Luke Reidenbach, Chief Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom