

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: August 28, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF LETTER OPPOSING ASSEMBLY BILL 339 (ORTEGA) –
LOCAL PUBLIC EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATIONS: NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify the issuance of the letter opposing Assembly Bill 339 (Ortega) – Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice Requirements.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Assembly Bill 339 (Ortega) would require local public agencies to provide recognized employee organizations with no less than 60 days' written notice prior to issuing a request for proposals (RFP), request for quotes (RFQ), or renewing or extending a contract to perform services that fall within the scope of represented job classifications.

The bill also requires agencies to disclose the proposed contract's scope, cost, and justification, and permits the employee organization to request a meet-and-confer process. Limited exemptions are provided for emergencies and exigent circumstances. Certain contracts governed by the Public Contract Code or specific public works provisions are excluded.

On July 23, 2025, the City submitted a letter opposing the bill. The letter outlines concerns regarding administrative burden, delays to routine and emergency contracting, and the broad applicability of the bill's requirements. These requirements would constrain the City's ability to efficiently manage contracts for essential services, potentially delaying service delivery and increasing administrative workload, particularly for routine renewals or time-sensitive projects.

The ad hoc City Council Subcommittee on Legislative Affairs, comprised of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, reviewed and approved the letter in advance of formal ratification by the City Council.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with the issuance of this letter.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. AB 339 Bill Text
2. AB 339 Legislative Analysis
3. Letter of Opposition to AB 339