



# CITY OF PALM DESERT

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July 21, 2025

The Honorable Liz Ortega  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 5120  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 339 (Ortega): Local Public Employee Organizations: Notice Requirements – OPPOSE**

Dear Assembly Member Ortega:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I must respectfully oppose AB 339, which would require the governing body of a local public agency to provide no less than 60 days' written notice to a recognized employee organization before issuing a request for proposals, request for quotes, or renewing or extending a contract to perform services within the scope of job classifications represented by that organization.

While the City supports transparency and good-faith engagement with our labor partners, AB 339 is overly broad, imposes impractical obligations, and undermines the City's ability to deliver timely and responsive public services.

**Unworkable for Routine and Emergency Operations**

AB 339 would apply to virtually any contract that overlaps with represented job classifications, encompassing a vast portion of our service contracts. Palm Desert, like many cities, contracts for specialized and seasonal services, ranging from IT support to event management and landscape maintenance. Under this bill, these would require a mandatory 60-day delay and potentially a meet-and-confer process, even when the service is non-controversial, longstanding, or expressly permitted under a current MOU.

Moreover, the bill's emergency exemption is narrow and undefined. Palm Desert must retain flexibility to respond quickly to unanticipated emergencies, such as storm recovery, public safety incidents, or facility failures, where delays could endanger public health or safety. AB 339 could delay our ability to procure critical services, even when lives or property are at risk.

**Disincentivizes Labor Agreements and Discourages Innovation**

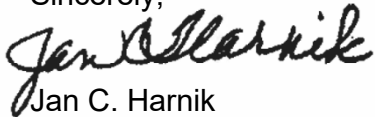
The bill creates a disincentive for finalizing labor agreements by authorizing the reopening of negotiations with no clear boundaries. This undermines labor stability and conflicts with the foundational intent of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act—to provide a framework for concluding agreements and avoiding continuous negotiation cycles.

Additionally, the City partners with local nonprofits and community-based organizations to deliver services that government cannot efficiently perform alone. AB 339 creates barriers to these partnerships, potentially chilling collaboration with trusted community providers who offer flexible, responsive, and cost-effective services.

**Conclusion**

AB 339 imposes unnecessary procedural burdens, reduces operational agility, and disrupts well-functioning partnerships without improving public service delivery. The City of Palm Desert respectfully urges you to reconsider this measure and instead work collaboratively with local governments and labor groups to address specific concerns through targeted reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jan C. Harnik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan C. Harnik  
Mayor, City of Palm Desert