



P.O. Box 3144
Los Altos, CA 94024
www.citiesassociation.org

September 24, 2025

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

**RE: AB 476 (Gonzalez) - an act pertaining to metal theft.
Request for SIGNATURE**

Dear Governor Newsom,

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County respectfully requests your signature on AB 476, which would deter metal theft in the first instance. This bill creates meaningful progress in protecting public infrastructure critical to the functioning of our communities.

The Cities Association of Santa Clara County is an interjurisdictional joint powers authority comprising members representing all 15 municipal corporations in Santa Clara County: Campbell, Cupertino, Gilroy, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and Sunnyvale. A key element of our mission is to act as a collective voice for our cities toward our representatives in Sacramento with respect to our legislative needs. Assemblymember Gonzalez' AB 476 answers our members cities' needs relating to the widely felt harms stemming from the theft of public infrastructure like fire hydrants, manhole covers, electric vehicle chargers, streetlight components, and other devices because of the value of their constituent metal parts.

Our member cities lack the capacity—both on their own, and in concert—to adequately confront the immediate and knock-on costs that arise from the theft of these items, which are key to cities' ability to provide public safety. The theft of manhole covers, for instance, makes our streets unsafe for all roadway users. Streetlight tampering leaves neighborhoods dark at night, encouraging crime. The theft of fire hydrants compromises fire suppression networks at a time of ever-rising fire risk.

Repairing and replacing these items falls to everyday taxpayers, typically through their cities of residence. And yet, even once replaced, these items remain vulnerable to the repeated theft. AB 476 confronts this challenge through a number of new enforcement mechanisms principally designed to change the economic motivation for these thefts. In particular, the bill accomplishes this goal by cutting off easy access to recycling facilities—facilities often beyond the direct regulatory reach of our member cities—where these items would otherwise be fenced.

For the foregoing reasons, the Cities Association respectfully asks that you sign AB 476.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Klein".

Larry Klein
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara
Mayor, City of Sunnyvale

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J.R. Fruen".

J.R. Fruen
Chair, CASC Legislative Action Committee
Councilmember, City of Cupertino

Cc:

Asm. Marc Berman
Asm. Alex Lee
Asm. Patrick Ahrens
Asm. Ash Kalra
Asm. Gail Pellerin
Asm. Robert Rivas
Sen. Josh Becker
Sen. Dave Cortese
Sen. Aisha Wahab