



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

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Chris Cabaldon
California State Capitol
1021 O Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1159: Notice of Support

Dear Senator Cabaldon,

We write on behalf of the Cities Association of Santa Clara County (CASCC), a Joint Powers Authority representing the elected leaders of all fifteen municipalities in the county and more than 1.8 million Bay Area residents. On behalf of the Cities in Santa Clara County, the CASCC Board of Directors is pleased to offer its strong support for SB 1159.

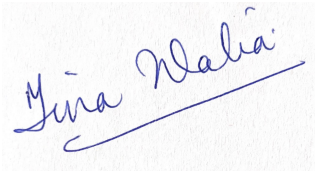
SB 1159 would clarify that artificial intelligence systems, autonomous agents, and other nonhuman entities do not qualify as a "person," "member of the public," or similar participant for purposes of the Brown Act, the California Public Records Act, the Political Reform Act, the Administrative Procedure Act, and CEQA.

Our cities are deeply concerned about the threat AI bots pose to the integrity of democratic participation. Public comment periods and open meetings are premised on the voices of real constituents with authentic interests in their communities. AI bots can flood comment dockets to manufacture the appearance of broad support or opposition, overwhelm staff with artificial records requests, and distort processes like CEQA review through mass-generated submissions. This does not enhance public participation; it corrupts it.

SB 1159 addresses these harms in a targeted and proportionate way. It restores the original intent of California's open government laws, which aimed to empower real people to engage with their government. It does not restrict AI as a tool that humans use to assist in drafting their own submissions, but rather ensures AI cannot act as an independent participant in place of a human being.

The integrity of public participation depends on being able to trust that the voices we hear are those of actual constituents. For these reasons, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County is proud to strongly support SB 1159 and urges its swift passage.

Sincerely,



Tina Walia
President, Cities Association of Santa Clara
Vice Mayor, City of Saratoga



Rob Moore
Chair, CASC Legislative Action Committee
Mayor, Town of Los Gatos

Cc:

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