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CITY OF LOMITA

June 30, 2025

The Honorable María Elena Durazo
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 7530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: **SB 707 (Durazo): Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements**
(As amended 5/29/25)
OPPOSE

Dear Senator Durazo,

The City of Lomita must respectfully oppose **SB 707**, as amended on May 29, 2025. This bill would represent the most extensive changes to the Brown Act in several years, introducing a variety of modifications designed to improve public participation in local government meetings, expand accessibility, and include several provisions that address the needs of local governments. However, these provisions are accompanied by no state funding and represent an unfunded mandate that cities like Lomita would be forced to absorb amid ongoing budget constraints.

While the City appreciates Senator Durazo's engagement with local government stakeholders and supports the intent to expand public participation, as the bill stands after being amended, it continues to impose several new mandates on local agencies, many of which would be especially burdensome for small cities like ours with limited staffing, fiscal revenues, and technological resources.

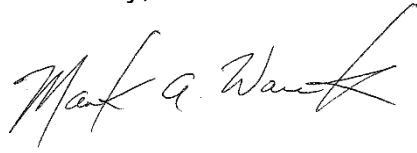
SB 707 would expand public access requirements through mandatory teleconferencing, translation of meeting materials, providing the public with access to computers and certified interpretation services, along with additional requirements. Without flexibility or financial assistance, the cumulative impact of SB 707 threatens to divert already-scarce resources from essential local services, forcing difficult tradeoffs for cities that are already doing more with less.

We acknowledge and appreciate the improvements made to SB 707 since its initial introduction, particularly the removal of the certified interpreter requirement and the extension of sunset dates for recent open meeting laws, which reflect a responsiveness to earlier concerns raised by local agencies. However, despite these positive adjustments, the bill in its current form remains unfeasible for small cities like Lomita.

While the City of Lomita strongly supports the values of transparency and inclusive public engagement, we respectfully ask the Legislature to recognize the outsized burden this bill

would place on smaller agencies and must respectfully oppose its advancement unless these concerns are addressed through meaningful amendments that reflect the operational realities of California's most resource-constrained cities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Waronek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "M" and "W".

Mark A. Waronek
Mayor
City of Lomita

Cc: The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen
The Honorable Al Muratsuchi
Lomita City Council
Jeff Kiernan, Cal Cities Regional Public Affairs Manager via email jkiernan@calcities.org
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