

ATTACHMENT 3
Position Letters & Major Issues
As of September 5, 2025

Attachment 3 includes City of Chino position letters on legislation and regulations submitted since the prior report. The attached letter(s) were submitted on behalf of the City during this reporting period.

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

July 28, 2025

The Honorable Sabrina Cervantes
California State Senator
1021 O Street, Suite 7330
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition Letter for SB 274: Automated License Plate Recognition Systems

As the Chief of Police for the City of Chino and a resident of the City of Eastvale, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 274, which you have introduced. SB 274 seeks to restrict the use and storage of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology by law enforcement. While I respect and appreciate your efforts to address civil liberties and data privacy concerns, the bill, as currently written, presents serious challenges to law enforcement's ability to protect the public and effectively investigate criminal activity.

SB 274 would require agencies to associate every use of surveillance technology, including ALPRs and security footage, with a specific case number and impose a 60-day data retention limit unless the information is tied to an active investigation. While well-intentioned, this requirement does not reflect the realities of modern policing, particularly in complex investigations, where patterns and suspects often cannot be identified within such a limited timeframe.

In many cases, data such as ALPR hits or surveillance footage are instrumental in connecting the dots across jurisdictions and identifying suspects weeks or even months after a crime has occurred. Mandating the deletion of such data after 60 days would severely hinder criminal investigations, especially in cases involving organized retail theft, vehicle theft, or patterns of violent crime. Surveillance tools frequently capture suspicious activity not linked to a known crime at the time, but which later proves critical in solving major cases. Under SB 274, law enforcement risks losing potentially vital evidence simply because it is not immediately tied to a case file.

Additionally, the requirement to associate a case number at the point of data collection is impractical. Officers frequently request that our Real Time Crime Center or Dispatch conduct inquiries on vehicles possibly associated to a criminal offense via our ALPR system while responding to calls for service. In many of these instances, a crime has not yet been confirmed, and therefore, a case number has not been generated. The Chino Police Department has consistently apprehended suspects shortly after crimes are committed by using ALPR technology in real time.



As one of your constituents living in Eastvale and serving as Chief of Police in a neighboring city, I respectfully urge you to consider the unintended consequences this bill will have on law enforcement's ability to safeguard our communities. While balancing privacy and public safety is essential, SB 274, as written, shifts too far from providing us with the tools needed to protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

As a law enforcement professional committed to public safety, I believe SB 274's approach would hinder law enforcement's ability in keeping our communities safe. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you require further information or wish to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 334-3093 or KMensen@chinopd.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KMensen', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5250
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Opposition Letter for SB 274: Automated License Plate Recognition Systems

As Chief of Police for the City of Chino and a resident of the City of Eastvale, I am writing to express my strong opposition to SB 274. SB 274 seeks to restrict the use and storage of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology by law enforcement. While I respect and appreciate the efforts to address civil liberties and data privacy concerns, the bill as currently written poses serious challenges to law enforcement's ability to protect the public and investigate criminal activity effectively.

SB 274 would require agencies to associate every use of surveillance technology—including ALPRs and security footage—with a specific case number and impose a 60-day data retention limit unless the information is tied to an active investigation. While well-intentioned, this requirement does not reflect the realities of modern policing, particularly in complex investigations where patterns and suspects may not be identified within that limited timeframe.

In many cases, data such as ALPR hits or surveillance footage are instrumental in connecting the dots across jurisdictions and identifying suspects weeks or even months after a crime has occurred. Officers frequently request our Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) and Dispatch to run a suspect vehicle's license plate through our ALPR system while they respond to calls for service, often helping us quickly establish a possible route of travel. The Chino Police Department has consistently apprehended suspects shortly after crimes are committed using ALPR technology. However, many incidents are reported more than 60 days after the fact. Our Patrol Officers and Criminal Investigations Bureau solve a high percentage of these cases by using ALPR data and other investigative tools to link suspects to vehicles and place those vehicles near crime scenes at the time of the incidents.

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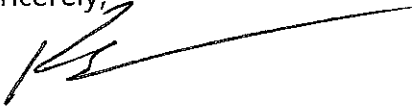


Requiring a case number at the point of data collection and mandating deletion of data after 60 days will severely hinder both proactive and reactive investigations, particularly in cases involving organized retail theft, vehicle theft, or violent crime patterns. Surveillance tools often capture suspicious activity not linked to a known crime at the time—but which later proves critical in solving major cases. Under SB 274, law enforcement risks losing potentially vital evidence simply because it was not immediately tied to a case file.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose SB 274 and consider the unintended consequences this bill will have on law enforcement's ability to safeguard our communities. The balance between privacy and public safety is essential—but SB 274, as written, shifts too far from providing the tools we rely on to protect victims and hold offenders accountable.

As a law enforcement professional committed to public safety, I believe SB 274's approach would ultimately harm our communities. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. Should you require further information or wish to discuss this in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909) 334-3093 or KMensen@chinopd.org.

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Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Phillip Chen
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4620
Sacramento, CA 95814

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Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

August 19, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senator, California State Senate
1021 O St, Suite 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 79 (Wiener) Transit-oriented Development, as amended July 17, 2025 - OPPOSE

Dear Senator Wiener,

The City of Chino writes to express our strong opposition to your bill, SB 79, which would disregard state-certified housing elements and bestow land use authority to transit agencies without any requirement to align development standards with local general plan and zoning requirements.

SB 79 doubles down on the recent trend of the state overriding its own mandated local housing elements. This latest overreaching effort forces cities in urban transit counties defined as “a county with more than 15 rail stations” to approve transit-oriented development projects near specified transit stops — up to seven stories high and a density of 120 homes per acre — without regard to the community's needs, environmental review, or public input. Similarly, cities in non-urban transit counties near specific transit stops would need to approve development projects by right, up to five stories high, with a density of 80 homes per acre.

Most alarmingly, SB 79 defies cities’ general plans and provides transit agencies with unlimited land use authority on property they own or have a permanent easement on or before January 1, 2026, within a half mile of a transit stop. Transit agencies would have the power to determine nearly all aspects of the development, including height, density, and design, without any regard for local zoning or planning.

The City of Chino appreciates the author’s desire to include an alternative transit-oriented development plan; however, as currently drafted, the local government has the option to do this through an additional analysis in the local government’s housing element or through the adoption of an ordinance with approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). In the AB 650 Senate Appropriations Analysis, HCD has determined that it will cost \$11.1 million annually and 52 new staff positions to provide more clarity in the housing element review process. SB 79 would add additional requirements for state review, increasing workloads, and making it more likely that local governments will not get their housing elements or ordinances approved promptly.



Finally, the local flexibility provided in the measure is minimal at best. The bill does not provide exemptions for cities that have adopted plans to promote taller, denser residential development near transit in consultation with the community, but fall short of the bill's rigid minimum requirements. The alternative plan would still be required to meet or exceed the required development near transit as determined by HCD across all transit-oriented development zones within the jurisdiction, without accounting for infrastructure constraints, environmental hazards, or community design goals unique to each jurisdiction. For example, a community may want to distribute density around the jurisdiction due to its infrastructure capacity. However, they must still meet the minimum requirements of the bill, regardless of whether they make sense for the community or the design of the jurisdiction. In short, the flexibility is about how to meet the state's requirements – not whether those requirements make sense for the community.

The City of Chino appreciates and respects your desire to pursue a housing production proposal. However, as currently drafted, SB 79 will not spur much-needed housing construction in a manner that supports local flexibility, decision-making, and community input. State-driven ministerial or by-right housing approval processes fail to recognize the extensive public engagement associated with developing and adopting zoning ordinances and housing elements.

California will never produce the number of homes needed with an increasingly state-driven, by-right housing approval process. What we really need is a sustainable state investment that matches the scale of this decades-in-the-making crisis. For these reasons, the City of Chino continues to strongly oppose SB 79.

Sincerely,



Linda Reich
City Manager

cc: The Honorable Susan Rubio
The Honorable Michelle Rodriguez
The Honorable Phillip Chen
Laura Varela, League of California Cities, lvarela@calcities.org
League of California Cities, cityletters@cacities.org

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



KAREN COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

August 19, 2025

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Senate President Pro Tempore Mike McGuire
1021 O St., Suite 8518
Sacramento, CA 95814

Speaker of the Assembly Robert Rivas State
Capitol P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0029

RE: SUPPORT FOR DELTA CONVEYANCE PROJECT STREAMLINING TRAILER BILL

Dear Governor Newsom, Pro Tem McGuire, and Speaker Rivas,

I write on behalf of the City of Chino to express our strong support for the streamlining of processes to advance the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) to a point where informed decisions can be made regarding construction investment and urge you to support the Delta Conveyance Project Streamlining Trailer Bill.

This budget trailer bill is NOT about circumventing public engagement and review – this budget trailer bill is all about breaking through redundant, archaic processes that have resulted in endless delays, duplicative reviews, and millions upon millions of dollars of additive costs, while impeding the State's ability to complete the DCP and other critical, needed infrastructure projects.

The DCP is a critical component of California's plans to fortify the State Water Project (SWP) in preparation for the impacts of extreme weather and climate change. The SWP delivers water to more than 27 million Californians and 750,000 acres of farmland and is the engine that powers California's economic success. However, this system is vulnerable to extreme weather and unpredictable precipitation patterns and, as a result, our state's main water supply is at serious risk.

According to the Department of Water Resources' SWP Delivery Capability Report, the SWP is expected to lose up to 23% of its supply in the next 20 years due to changing flow patterns and extreme weather shifts. It is critical that we act NOW by advancing the DCP to prepare California's water infrastructure to protect the long-term reliability and affordability of water for the millions of Californian homes and businesses that rely upon the SWP.



The Honorable Gavin Newson
The Honorable Mike McGuire
The Honorable Robert Rivas
August 19, 2025, p.2

The 2024 Benefit/Cost Analysis of the Delta Conveyance Project found that water conveyed through the SWP is the most affordable source of water compared to alternatives like desalination or recycling. These alternative sources are necessary, but the volume of water delivered by the SWP cannot be replaced.

For decades, the DCP has been stalled by frivolous lawsuits and duplicative reviews. These are the universal problems facing major infrastructure throughout California, and are foundational to why it is so difficult to do big things in our state and bring major infrastructure to completion.

The budget trailer bill proposal restores balance to this process – ensuring legitimate concerns are addressed, while removing tools for obstruction and delay. Every year of delay in construction of the DCP costs California's water ratepayers – including nearly 8 million people living in disadvantaged communities – approximately \$600 million. The budget trailer bill proposal reduces bureaucratic red tape, which translates into real savings for Californians and for the State budget.

The proposed trailer bill smooths administrative processes to help move the Delta Conveyance Project in a way that balances environmental protections while improving the efficiency of the review and approval process.

It needs to be said, that this DCP "is not your grandparent's water conveyance project." The DCP has been redesigned to be smaller, more environmentally responsive, and less intrusive to Delta communities. At the same time, the DCP will generate thousands of good-paying union construction jobs and stimulate local economies, especially in areas hardest hit by economic downturns and drought-related agricultural cutbacks.

For these reasons, the City of Chino urges you to support the DCP trailer bill. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working with you to advance this important legislation.

Best regards,


Eunice Ulloa
Mayor

cc: Chino City Council

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Sade Elhawary
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 6320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition: Assembly Bill 1231 – Safer Communities Through Opportunities Act

Dear Assembly Member Elhawary,

On behalf of the Chino Police Department, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Assembly Bill 1231, which would allow pretrial diversion for nearly all nonviolent, non-serious felony offenses, including many drug sale offenses, repeated property crimes, and crimes that qualify as "predicate offenses" under Proposition 36. The bill is titled the "Safer Communities Through Opportunities Act," yet this name creates a false narrative. Our officers and communities have already seen the negative impacts of soft-on-crime legislation such as Proposition 47.

This bill grants judges broad discretion to approve diversion plans before trial and requires them to consider input from defense counsel, pretrial services, and even "family or close contacts of the defendant." Notably, repeat offenders would remain eligible for diversion regardless of how many times they have been arrested for the same type of crime.

Governor Newsom recently announced the deployment of CHP crime suppression teams to the Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, the Inland Empire, Sacramento, and the Central Valley. These teams work in partnership with local law enforcement to saturate high-crime areas, target repeat offenders, seize weapons and narcotics, and disrupt organized criminal activity. Early pilot programs in Oakland and Bakersfield reported significant reductions in violent and property crimes. In contrast, AB 1231 undermines the Governor's

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own public safety message by extending leniency to repeat offenders, sending a conflicting signal to both the public and the criminal community.

California voters clearly expressed their support for accountability by passing Proposition 36 in last year's November general election. AB 1231, unless substantially amended, goes directly against the will of the citizens of California. At a minimum, eligibility for felony diversion should be limited to first-time offenders, require prosecutorial consent, and exclude crimes with identifiable victims—particularly burglary and theft-related offenses.

Though well-intentioned, AB 1231 shifts the balance away from accountability and public safety, while placing additional burdens on law enforcement agencies already stretched thin. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose Assembly Bill 1231 unless amended to protect victims and communities.

Thank you for considering our perspective on this critical issue. Should you require additional information or wish to discuss this matter in greater detail, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (909) 334-3093 or via email at KMensen@chinopd.org.

Sincerely,

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Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department

EUNICE M. ULLOA
Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



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MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

CITY of CHINO

September 2, 2025

The Honorable Susan Rubio
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Opposition: Assembly Bill 1231 – Safer Communities Through Opportunities Act

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Kevin Mensen, Chief of Police
Chino Police Department

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Mayor

CURTIS BURTON
Mayor Pro Tem



CITY of CHINO

KAREN C. COMSTOCK
CHRISTOPHER FLORES
MARC LUCIO
Council Members

DR. LINDA REICH
City Manager

September 4, 2025

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

**Re: Senate Bill 707 — Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements
Oppose Unless Amended (as Amended September 2, 2025)**

Dear Senator Durazo:

The City of Chino writes to express its opposition to Senate Bill (SB) 707. While we appreciate the intent to expand transparency and to encourage public participation in local government, several provisions in the bill would result in unintended operational consequences and impose additional fiscal burdens on local agencies. We oppose the bill due to the following provisions.

Implementation Timeline

SB 707 is scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2026, providing agencies with a short timeframe to implement significant operational changes. This timeline is not feasible for many jurisdictions, including Chino, which already has a significant workload that exceeds the capacity of our city clerk staff. Additionally, establishing compliance with this bill will require extensive technology upgrades, including procurement and installation of hardware, software licensing, internet enhancements, and facility modifications to integrate reliable audio-visual systems and ensure accessibility compliance.

Additionally, agencies will need to develop new policies and protocols, train their staff, and allocate additional personnel to manage remote participation during meetings. These operational and staffing impacts, combined with the fiscal constraints many agencies face, make the current implementation date unworkable.

These efforts are further complicated by procurement timelines that can take three to six months or longer. Compounding these challenges, the same staff responsible for implementing these requirements will also be administering the November 2026 election.



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Agenda Translations

The bill's language translation requirements also present implementation questions. SB 707 requires agendas to be translated into all "applicable languages," defined as those spoken by 20% or more of the local population with limited English proficiency. This could require the translation of materials that may never be requested or used, resulting in significant costs and an administrative burden, and diverting resources from other critical needs within the agency. A request-based model, similar to other public records and accessibility accommodations, would strike a more effective balance between accessibility and feasibility.

SB 707 would also require local agencies to create and maintain translated versions of their public-facing webpages, with prominent links on the homepage for each applicable language. This poses practical challenges and requires technical capacity and administrative time, adding to the large and growing list of posting mandates when many users already rely on browser-based translation tools to navigate agency websites effectively.

Remote Public Participation

SB 707 mandates real-time remote public comment via two-way telephonic or audiovisual platforms for all open meetings of "eligible legislative bodies." While we recognize the importance of expanding access, this requirement will significantly increase staffing demands, overtime, technology infrastructure, and security needs. Managing virtual participation can also present challenges such as inappropriate content and meeting disruption, which require additional oversight and planning.

Special meetings held at alternative locations, often organized to better serve community needs, could be especially challenging to support due to these technological requirements. In many cases, compliance is not as simple as bringing a computer to another site; agencies often rely on encoders, dedicated audio-visual systems, and other non-portable equipment. Hosting an entire meeting with these new requirements in a different location may therefore be very difficult.

Public-Submitted Translations

SB 707 allows members of the public to post their own translations of an agenda at the physical meeting location. While we understand that agencies would not be held liable for inaccurate postings, this could lead to potential confusion or the dissemination of inaccurate information.

Subsidiary Body Recommendations

The bill's requirements concerning subsidiary body recommendations could interfere with existing legislative workflows. For example, requiring the governing body to discuss all advisory recommendations—regardless of relevance or scope—could reduce flexibility, create procedural inefficiencies, and raise questions about the proper scope of advisory bodies' authority. In practice,

Hon. Maria Elena Durazo
September 4, 2025
Page 3

many advisory bodies make recommendations in real time and within a timeframe that aligns with the issue at hand; waiting for a delayed decision mechanism would not be practical and could undermine the purpose of the recommendation.

For these reasons, the City of Chino must respectfully oppose SB 707.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Linda Reich", with a stylized, cursive script.

Linda Reich
City Manager

cc: cityletters@cacities.org