



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

June 26 2018

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Opposition to AB 2806 (Obernolte) – Vehicles: Disabled Parking

Dear Assemblymember Obernolte:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write in opposition to Assembly Bill 2806 (Obernolte). The City of Long Beach supports policies and legislation that provide a sufficient process for business and government entities to implement ADA requirements to fully support residents with disabilities. AB 2806 would make an exception for vehicles with disability license plates or placards to park in designated electrical vehicle charging area if that vehicle is being used to help unload a person with a disability through use of a lift, ramp, or other assistive device. By proposing this change in state law, AB 2806 conflates the availability of ADA parking with the growth of EV parking.

The City of Long Beach is steadfast in its commitment to complying with the intent and the spirit of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990; parking is no exception. The City works to ensure the required number of blue zones are available to the public and carefully plans the best available areas to place ADA parking, many times exceeding the required amount. The City also has a residential program that currently provides approximately 2,500 on-street blue zones to help meet the needs of our communities with disabilities. AB 2806 proposes to provide parking spaces for ADA resident use that are not the best suited for the user as they are not originally intended as ADA parking spaces.

The City's commitment to implementing climate change adaptation strategies does not replace the number nor the quality of ADA spaces available in the City. In November 2016, the City adopted an electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure expansion plan as new amendments to the City's building code. The goals of the expansion include expanding EV charging installations at existing City facilities, private facilities, and to increase EV readiness requirements in all new development. However, these EV charging parking spaces will not replace any number of ADA parking spaces. The City will continue to pursue climate change adaptation strategies without compromising the inclusion and prioritization of our residents who use ADA parking.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach respectfully, and strongly opposes AB 2806 (Obernolte).

Sincerely,



Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District