

September 29, 2025

**RE: Veto Request for SB 707 (Durazo)—Open meetings: meeting and teleconference requirements**

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach (City), the City respectfully requests your Veto of **SB 707 (Durazo)**. The City works collaboratively across departments to ensure every resident can meaningfully participate in the policy design process. The City adopted a comprehensive language access policy in 2013 and continues to expand and strengthen the services provided to people who speak languages other than English. However, SB 707, as currently drafted, would impose costly and inconsistent new mandates on the City without providing the resources or flexibility needed for successful implementation.

SB 707 would create significant fiscal and operational challenges for the City including:

- Providing two-way telephonic or audiovisual access for meetings and requiring proceedings to halt for at least one hour during any service disruption; this requirement would apply not only to city council meetings but also to the City's 38 commissions and boards, and other city council committees, which together account for dozens of public meetings each month.
- Designating a public space for community-submitted translations, even if submitted translations may be inaccurate.
- Creating and maintaining multi-language webpages for agendas, instructions, and meeting procedures.
- Expanding outreach efforts and electronic systems for agenda access.

The City would require significant broadband infrastructure investments at several facilities where meetings currently take place to ensure an uninterrupted internet connection throughout the meeting. Significant new staff would be needed to support translation services and technical aspects for attendees online, and in the physical meeting space. Because of Proposition 42 (2014), none of these requirements would be reimbursable, forcing the city to absorb all costs. Additionally, the bill applies unevenly across California, treating cities of similar size



differently based solely on county population, while the State itself is exempt from these rules.

Although the implementation deadline was amended to July 1, 2026, this deadline still does not provide sufficient time for cities to fully budget, procure, and train for compliance. The City is committed to facilitating a policy design process that reflects the needs and voices of the community, but additional time and resources are needed to ensure responsible and effective implementation of this legislation. The City is committed to working with the author to address the current gap in resources, and to prioritizing the policies and programs that are most effective for increasing community participation in Long Beach. For these reasons, the City respectfully requests your Veto on SB 707.

Sincerely,



THOMAS B. MODICA  
City Manager

