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**ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**  
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

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May 5, 2021

The Honorable Cecilia M. Aguiar-Curry, Chair  
Committee on Local Government  
Capitol Office, Room 5144  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Chair Aguiar-Curry,


On behalf of the Orange County Water District (OCWD), I am writing to express our opposition to AB 339 (Lee) unless amended to preserve local control and reduce the significant burdens local governments would face under the bill.

The mandates imposed by AB 339 create significant one-time and ongoing costs. For example, AB 339 would require local agencies to provide new interpretation services, create a system to process translation requests, and provide, not only in-person, but also two-way video and telephonic services for meetings.

These requirements amount to significant financial and procedural burdens for local governments such as OCWD. For example, if either the teleconferencing service or the internet-based options are not available or have their servers go down during a meeting, the District would not be able to conduct Brown Act compliant meetings. This means that conditions necessary to operate meetings, but outside of our control, would determine whether the meetings take place. The District strongly believes that conditioning the operations of local government on the operability of Zoom servers destabilizes our ability to meet our fiscal, legal, and practical obligations to the residents in our service area.

We urge your "No" vote if AB 339 is not amended per the above. Please do not hesitate to contact me or OCWD Legislative Liaison Alicia Dunkin at [adunkin@ocwd.com](mailto:adunkin@ocwd.com) or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

  
Stephen R. Sheldon  
Board President

  
Jordan Brandman  
Chair, Communications/Legislative  
Liaison Committee

cc:

Senator Josh Newman, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Bob Archuleta, 32<sup>nd</sup> District  
Senator Tom Umberg, 34<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Patricia Bates, 36<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Dave Min, 37<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Phillip Chen, 55<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk- Silva, 65<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Steven S. Choi, Ph.D., 68<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Tom Daly, 69<sup>th</sup> District  
Assemblymember Janet Nguyen, 72<sup>nd</sup> District  
Assemblymember Laurie Davies, 73<sup>rd</sup> District  
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74<sup>th</sup> District  
Angela Mapp, Chief Consultant, Local Government Committee  
William Weber, Republican Consultant, Local Government Committee