



**CITY OF
HERMOSA BEACH**

September 30, 2025

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Senate Bill 707 (Durazo) — Request for Veto

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Hermosa Beach, we respectfully request your veto of Senate Bill 707 (“Bill”). While we fully support the intent of the Bill to enhance transparency and public participation in local government, we are concerned that the Bill imposes broad and inflexible mandates that would create significant operational and fiscal challenges (particularly for smaller cities like ours). The Bill’s one-size-fits-all approach does not adequately account for the varied capacities and resources of local agencies as noted below:

- The Bill would require real-time, two-way public participation through telephonic or audiovisual platforms for all meetings of newly defined “legislative bodies”. This requirement will necessitate substantial and ongoing investments in staffing, equipment, cybersecurity, and compliance (costs not reimbursable under Government Code section 17556).
- While well-intentioned, the mandate to translate agendas into all “applicable languages” spoken by 20% or more of the local population with limited English proficiency raises practical concerns. The allowance for public posting of alternative translations (over which agencies have no control) may unintentionally lead to confusion, despite agencies not being held liable.
- The Bill’s implementation deadline of July 1, 2026, also presents a significant challenge. The timeline does not allow adequate time for smaller or under-resources jurisdictions to plan, budget, and train staff to meet these requirements effectively.

We believe the goals of transparency and inclusion are best advanced through practical, scalable solutions that consider the unique needs and limitations of local communities. For these reasons, the Hermosa Beach City Council respectfully urges you to veto the Bill.

Please feel free to contact me directly at rsaemann@hermosabeach.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rob Saemann, Mayor
City Council
City of Hermosa Beach

cc: Brady Borcharding, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom