



CITY OF LAVERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750-3599
www.cityoflaverne.org

February 19, 2026

The Honorable John Harabedian
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4350
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1786 (Harabedian): Public contracts: best value construction contracting for counties, cities, and joint powers authorities.

Dear Honorable Assembly Member Harabedian:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, I write in strong support of your AB 1786, which extends existing best value construction contracting authority to cities and certain infrastructure focused joint powers authorities, creating parity with procurement tools already available to counties.

Cities across California are responsible for delivering increasingly complex capital projects, including transportation improvements, water and sewer infrastructure upgrades, public safety facilities, parks, stormwater systems, and affordable housing developments. These projects are often funded through layered financing structures that combine local revenue, state grants, federal appropriations, and bond proceeds. They are delivered in a construction environment marked by material cost volatility, skilled labor shortages, supply chain disruptions, and heightened schedule pressures tied to grant deadlines and performance requirements.

Under current law, general law cities are generally required to award construction contracts to the lowest responsible bidder. While that framework remains appropriate for many projects, it can constrain a city's ability to account for important risk factors when delivering large scale or technically complex infrastructure. Lowest bid procurement may limit the ability to meaningfully evaluate contractor experience with similar projects, demonstrated capacity to manage complex staging or coordination requirements, safety performance history, and long term value considerations.

Examples of past, current and future capital improvement projects in La Verne that could have benefited from Best Value Contracting include:

- B Street Roadway Improvement Project
- Arrow Highway Urban Greening Project

- Plateau Forebay Transmission Pipeline Rehabilitation Project
- White Avenue Pavement Rehabilitation

AB 1786 provides cities with an optional procurement tool that allows objective qualifications to be evaluated alongside price through a transparent and competitive process. Best value contracting does not eliminate competition or bypass accountability. Instead, it establishes clear evaluation criteria, maintains public notice and bidding requirements, requires documentation of award decisions, and preserves reporting obligations and a sunset date. Cities would retain full discretion to continue using traditional lowest responsible bidder procurement where appropriate.

For projects involving complicated phasing, sensitive community impacts, coordination with utilities and outside agencies, or heightened safety concerns, best value contracting can reduce the risk of delays, litigation, change orders, and cost escalation. By selecting the contractor offering the strongest overall combination of price and qualifications, cities can better safeguard taxpayer resources, improve schedule reliability, and deliver higher quality outcomes for residents.

AB 1786 ensures parity between counties, cities, and qualified regional delivery entities while maintaining transparency and legislative oversight. We commend your leadership on this issue and are proud to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Hepburn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tim Hepburn
Mayor

CC: La Verne City Council
Honorable Senator Susan Rubio