



CITY OF LA VERNE CITY HALL

3660 "D" Street, La Verne, California 91750
www.laverneca.gov

April 2, 2026

California State Assembly
Committee on Judiciary
1020 N Street, Room 104
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 1821 (Pacheco) – California Public Records Act: fees and agency response time.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of La Verne, we must respectfully support AB 1821, which provides reasonable updates to the California Public Records Act to improve transparency while addressing the administrative realities faced by public agencies.

AB 1821 strikes an appropriate balance between ensuring timely public access to records and recognizing the growing complexity and volume of public records requests. By allowing agencies to recover reasonable costs associated with excessive search time, the bill helps ensure that limited public resources are not disproportionately diverted to fulfill overly burdensome or duplicative requests.

For the City of La Verne, this issue is particularly significant. The City received over 200 public records requests in 2025 alone, and not even halfway through the current year, the City is already approaching 100 requests. There is a clear and growing trend of increasingly complex requests, particularly from private companies seeking detailed records such as business permits, personnel contact information, bid documents, and agreements spanning multiple years. These requests often require extensive staff time to locate, review, redact, and compile large volumes of responsive documents.

In some cases, fulfilling a single request has required staff to spend over 20 hours, including weekends, diverting time away from core municipal services. This creates a disproportionate burden on a small, full-service city like La Verne. Providing a mechanism for cost recovery would help offset these impacts, allowing cities to cover overtime costs or reallocate staff resources more effectively while still maintaining transparency.

Additionally, the bill clarifies response timelines by establishing business-day standards, providing greater consistency and predictability for both requestors and agencies. These updates reflect modern operational practices and support more effective communication regarding request status and fulfillment.

Importantly, AB 1821 maintains key protections for journalists and research institutions, ensuring that access to public information for purposes of accountability and scholarship remains preserved.

Overall, this measure supports transparency while promoting efficiency, accountability, and responsible use of public resources.

For these reasons, the City of La Verne respectfully urges your support of AB 1821.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tim Hepburn".

Tim Hepburn, Mayor

CC: La Verne City Council