



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



2025-2026 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Brenda Olmos
President
Paramount

Dr. John Erickson
Vice President
West Hollywood

Chris Barajas
Secretary
Jurupa Valley

Sal Melendez
Treasurer
Montebello

Jennifer Perez
Immediate Past President
Norwalk

Jeff Wood
Ambassadors
Lakewood

Mark Waronek
Associate Members
Lomita

Cedric Hicks
Budget & Audit
Carson

Margaret Finlay
Bylaws
Duarte

John Moreno
*City Managers/
Administrators*
Paramount

Victoria Garcia
Legal & Contracts
San Fernando

Gustavo Camacho
Legislative
Pico Rivera

Ed Reece
*Legislative Co-Chair/
Director-at-Large*
Claremont

Victor Sanchez
Membership
Bellflower

James Bozajian
Resolutions
Calabasas

Oralia Rebollo
Budget & Audit
Commerce

Yesenia De La Rosa
Special Events
Avalon

Marcel Rodarte
Executive Director

April 13, 2026

Dear Senator Stern,

On behalf of the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA), representing 84 cities and nearly 8 million residents throughout Southern California, we respectfully write in opposition to SB 1359.

CCCA member cities are committed to advancing California's climate goals while ensuring that policies remain responsive to the diverse needs of our communities. As currently drafted, SB 1359 raises significant concerns regarding energy reliability, affordability, and local economic impacts.

First, the bill would make it easier to discontinue natural gas service, even in cases where it remains essential for our residents, local businesses, and critical facilities. Many sectors within our cities, including restaurants, hospitals, manufacturers, and small businesses, depend on natural gas for safe and reliable operations.

Second, SB 1359 limits energy choice for consumers. Local governments value the ability of residents and businesses to select energy options that best meet their needs. Allowing service decisions to be driven primarily by policy rather than customer demand risks leaving many without viable or affordable alternatives.

Finally, we believe that the bill may result in higher energy costs for remaining natural gas customers. As the customer base shrinks, infrastructure costs would be spread across fewer users, disproportionately impacting small businesses, renters, and low- to moderate-income households, many of whom are least able to absorb increased utility expenses.

While we support a thoughtful transition to cleaner energy, it must be implemented in a manner that safeguards reliability, maintains affordability, and reflects the on-the-ground realities faced by cities and their residents.

For these reasons, CCCA respectfully opposes SB 1359 and urges consideration of amendments that address these significant concerns.

Sincerely,

Marcel Rodarte

Executive Director

California Contract Cities Association