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June 15, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O St, Room 4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1821 (Pacheco) California Public Records Act: agency response time.
Notice of SUPPORT (4/6/2026)

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco,

The City of Burlingame is pleased to support your measure **AB 1821 (Pacheco)**, which would shift from “calendar days” to “business days” for initial California Public Records Act (CPRA) determinations and extensions. This is a common-sense update that reflects the operational realities of cities. Cities generally do not have staff available on weekends or holidays, yet current law continues to count these days against the CPRA deadlines during these periods. A business-day standard ensures cities have the full, intended number of working days to conduct thorough and accurate searches for disclosable records.

Under existing law, cities must determine within 10 days whether a request seeks disclosable records, with a possible 14-day extension in unusual circumstances. Neither timeframe accounts for weekends or holidays when staff are unavailable. AB 1821 corrects this discrepancy by converting these periods to business days, helping cities comply with the law more effectively and consistently.

Modern government operations now generate far more disclosable records, including emails, texts, and internal messages, which require extensive searching, review, and redaction of sensitive information such as attorney-client communications, personal identifiers, and medical or criminal data. At the same time, cities have lost key revenue sources that once offset these costs: Proposition 42 eliminated state reimbursement for CPRA compliance, and a 2020 California Supreme Court ruling restricted cities from recovering staff time or technical costs associated with producing records. As a result, local governments must absorb the full cost of increasingly time-intensive requests.

We appreciate the author’s efforts and support continued conversations about broader CPRA reform. The business-day clarification in the bill is a narrow but meaningful improvement that will help cities comply with the law more effectively and consistently.

The City of Burlingame currently averages 13 public records requests per week, and with a City Clerk’s Office of two people, this bill will greatly assist the City in not only providing transparency but also ensuring the provision of responsive documents to the public. Moreover, by aligning the CPRA with “business days” instead of “calendar days”, staff will be

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able to respond to public records requests in a timely fashion and better balance their other core functions to the community.

For these reasons, the City of Burlingame is pleased to support **AB 1821 (Pacheco)**.

Sincerely,

Michael Brownrigg
Mayor
City of Burlingame

cc. State Senator Josh Becker
Assemblymember Diane Papan
League of California Cities