



March 24, 2025

Mayor

Joe Stapleton

Mayor Pro Tem

Lauren Kleiman

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Noah Blom

Robyn Grant

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Lori D. Wilson
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Room 6350
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1060 (Avila Farias): Local Government: Legal Fee Disclosures
Notice of Opposition- City of Newport Beach**

Dear Chair Wilson,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write in respectful opposition to Assembly Bill 1060, which would require cities, counties, and special districts to publicly disclose legal fees paid to counsel regardless of the nature of the legal services rendered.

While the City of Newport Beach supports transparency and open government, AB 1060 raises serious concerns about legal confidentiality, litigation strategy, and the undue administrative burden it would place on local agencies. The bill fails to distinguish between legal services, confidential personnel matters, or sensitive negotiations. Forcing disclosure of the amounts paid could inadvertently expose public agencies to liability or weaken their position in disputes, ultimately costing taxpayers more.

Moreover, AB 1060 disregards existing mechanisms that already ensure local agency accountability, including independent audits, public budgeting processes, and existing PRA requirements. Mandating blanket disclosures without adequate protections or context creates unnecessary risk and confusion, and could discourage agencies from seeking appropriate legal counsel out of fear of political backlash or reputational harm.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes AB 1060.

Sincerely,

Joe Stapleton
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

cc: Newport Beach City Council