

County Executive  
David Villanueva

Governmental Relations and  
Legislative Officer  
Elisia De Bord



County of Sacramento

Board of Supervisors  
Phillip R. Serna, District 1  
Patrick Kennedy, District 2  
Rich Desmond, District 3  
Sue Frost, District 4  
Patrick Hume, District 5

May 2, 2024

The Honorable Chris Ward  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Suite 6350  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2489 (Ward). Contracts for Special Services and Temporary Help.  
Oppose (As amended April 29, 2024)**

Dear Assembly Member Ward:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully write to oppose AB 2489, which hinders local governments' contracting ability and has the potential to negatively impact our workforce and the communities we serve.

AB 2489 creates overly burdensome processes that do not account for an evolving workplace or a changing environment subject to natural disaster as seen in recent years. This measure requires local agencies to notify specified employee organizations at least 10 months before starting a procurement process to contract for "special services" that are currently or previously provided by a member of an employee organization. "Special services," as defined, covers a wide range of County services from essential government administration to medical, therapeutic, legal services, and more. The extended timeframe would unintentionally inhibit local agencies from responding to natural disasters, emergency repairs, or emergent situations that are nearly impossible to anticipate despite provisions that attempt to provide exemptions for emergencies. This 10-month timeframe and extensive range of services included in AB 2489 are unworkable.

For example, Sacramento County's Office of Emergency Services dealt with unexpected scales of regional flooding over the past two years and needed more staff to complete FEMA paperwork within the timelines to allow recoupment. Such services require immediate attention and without delay. As for our County's Department of Health Services, the COVID-19 pandemic and nationwide healthcare professional shortages directly impact the ability to deliver critical public/primary/correctional/behavioral health services. The timelines and contract standards proposed in AB 2489 do not account for real-life disasters and needs.

Additionally, Sacramento County's Board of Supervisors have authority for emergency expenditures including mutual aid/temporary hires. AB 2489 effectively removes that authority through administrative requirements that are not achievable during an emergency or as part of recovery. This would require a waiver from the Governor in every proclamation just to ensure adequate emergency staffing.

May 2, 2024

-2-

This measure could also negatively impact our ability to obtain federal grants. Sacramento County relies heavily on contractors to complete grant projects with specific deadlines and reporting requirements. The timeframe to announce a contract process takes too much of our grant timeline to complete projects and will make it impossible to obtain much-needed funding. Further, this would set an enormous administrative burden for evaluation rubrics and criteria beyond what is identified in a Scope of Work.

AB 2489 requires a contractor to ensure that its employees meet or exceed the minimum qualifications and standards required of bargaining unit civil service employees who perform or have performed the same job functions, including everything from criminal history and background checks before beginning employment, to academic attainment, licensure, assessment exams, to performance standards. The bill requires proof that employees meet the minimum qualifications and standards. These requirements will deter non-profit providers, community-based organizations, and other private service providers from working with Sacramento County. This, in turn, exacerbates the workload demand for our staff, increases costs, and affects our standard of business. Such pressures will likely impact the communities we serve.

This measure could also impede the County's hiring ability, which is a focus area for the County as well as the Legislature. AB 2489 has the potential to eliminate Sacramento County's Student Intern Program because its administrative requirements are not feasible. This intern program is intended to expose students to government positions, which are becoming difficult to attract and sustain, especially after the Pandemic. Without these internship opportunities, we prevent a potential workforce from entering government service. This direction conflicts with current legislation that seeks to reduce vacancy rates in local government agencies (e.g., AB 2561 (McKinnor)).

For these reasons and those set forth in CSAC's coalition letter dated April 12, 2024, Sacramento County opposes AB 2489. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or [deborde@saccounty.gov](mailto:deborde@saccounty.gov).

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: The Honorable Henry Stern  
Members, Assembly Transportation Committee  
Sacramento County Delegation  
Chair and Members, Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies  
Kalyn Dean, CSAC