



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
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Rosario Rodriguez, District 4
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March 10, 2025

The Honorable Heather Hadwick, Assembly Member
1021 O Street, Suite 5710
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 438 (Hadwick). Allow Local Office of Emergency Services (OES)
Vehicles to Drive Code 3. - Support

Dear Assembly Member Hadwick:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support your AB 438, which improves emergency response by allowing local OES vehicles to drive code 3.

County OES are communities' first line of defense during any disaster. Currently, peace officers, firefighters, tribal governments, and the California Governor's OES have authorized emergency vehicles (AEV). Though state OES has AEVs, AEVs for local OES are prohibited. In fire-threatened communities in rural California, often the only entity evacuating people during a fire are county OES. This ability is crucial for rural California where emergency response resources are stretched thin and unable to respond quickly.

By authorizing cities and counties to designate OES vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles, local OES can reduce response time to disasters such as fires, floods, tsunamis, and hazardous waste spills, particularly in underserved rural areas. Under AB 438 cities and counties must own the AEV, the AEV must have the appropriate equipment and markings, only public employees can drive the AEV, and responders must be trained to follow emergency vehicle laws.

Sacramento County OES staff currently take the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) course, the same training offered to law enforcement, to safely operate our vehicles. Our vehicles are equipped with hi/lo sirens as an additional warning for evacuations. This helps to ensure that our operations are compliant under law while maintaining operational capability and ensuring the safety of members of and visitors to our community. AB 438 will provide immediate assistance to communities during a disaster, expedite evacuation orders, and improve public safety.

March 10, 2025

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For these reasons, Sacramento County supports AB 438. Please feel free to contact me at (916) 874-4627 or deborde@saccounty.gov.

Sincerely,



Elisia De Bord

Governmental Relations and Legislative Officer

cc: Sacramento County Delegation
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies