



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  
Patrick Hume, District 5

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Gregg Hart, Assembly Member  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 632 (Hart). Local Ordinances: Administrative Fines or Fees. -  
Support

Dear Assembly Member Hart:

On behalf of the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, I write to support your AB 632 (Hart), which helps local governments address several types of chronic and unresolved code enforcement matters.

Like other local governments in California, Sacramento County established code enforcement programs to promote and maintain safe and desirable living and working conditions. We believe a fair, unbiased, and streamlined enforcement program protects public health, safety, and welfare, contributing to the overall quality of life, and preserving property values. A successful code enforcement program ensures that property owners correct code violations in a timely and responsible manner and disincentivizes future noncompliance and places the costs of enforcement on the offenders, not taxpayers. Yet, some property owners are unresponsive to local **governments' efforts to abate property** conditions that constitute public nuisances and, consequently, endanger the community. For code enforcement matters related to the use of illegal fireworks and accompanying administrative penalties, the nuisance conditions continue at properties, and the lengthy existing process does not quickly remedy existing violations and deter future violations.

Under existing law, local governments may assess administrative fines, penalties, fees, and costs to address code enforcement violations. However, existing law only allows counties to recover nuisance abatement *fees and costs* through special assessments collected with the property **owner's property** tax bill, but they must bring an action in civil court to collect administrative *finer and penalties*, a process that is time-consuming and costly. The process to obtain a civil court judgment, record a judgment lien, and then attempt to collect on the lien can take years to effectuate, and therefore fails to quickly disincentivize detrimental and dangerous conduct such as illegal firework use, risks local government and taxpayers shouldering the financial burden of that conduct, and fails to promote swift abatement of those violations.

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AB 632 changes the current landscape by providing a critical tool to local governments to ensure timely and complete compliance in matters that threaten public health, safety, and welfare because it will enable local governments to recover nuisance abatement fines and penalties by way of a special assessment and avoids the protracted procedure that currently applies. With this tool, the County can address unresolved code violations because it will provide a more efficient penalty recovery process by authorizing recording of a lien with the same priority as a judgment lien without first bringing an action in civil court.

AB 632 would assist the County in quickly, efficiently, and effectively addressing unresolved code enforcement matters for the benefit of our community. Importantly, however, it would continue to protect the due process rights of property owners and responsible parties by providing them with notice and an opportunity to object to the imposition of fines and penalties consistent with the process followed for the imposition of fees and costs. By creating a uniform scheme for the assessment and collection of code enforcement fines, penalties, fees, and costs, AB 632 provides local government agencies with a more efficient collection mechanism to administer code enforcement programs and maintain the quality of their communities.

For these reasons, Sacramento County supports AB 632. 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: Sacramento County Delegation  
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors  
Audrey Ratajczak, Cruz Strategies