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June 10, 2026

The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 1159 (Cabaldon) Artificial Intelligence: Transparency and Governance – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Cabaldon,

Larry Klein
Mayor

Richard Mehlinger
Vice Mayor

Alysa Cisneros
Councilmember

Murali Srinivasan
Councilmember

Linda Sell
Councilmember

Charlsie Chang
Councilmember

Eileen Le
Councilmember

The City of Sunnyvale writes in strong support of SB 1159, which takes an important and timely step toward preserving transparency, accountability, and meaningful public participation in governmental processes as artificial intelligence technologies continue to evolve. It was great talking with you about this bill in Long Beach last weekend.

Sunnyvale lies in the very heart of Silicon Valley and stands as a major anchor for California's technology industry. As such, we value nothing more than open government and responsible innovation. As public agencies increasingly explore the use of artificial intelligence tools to improve efficiency and service delivery, it is essential that California establish clear standards to ensure that these technologies do not undermine democratic participation or public trust.

SB 1159 appropriately clarifies that artificial intelligence systems, autonomous agents, and other non-human entities are not “persons” entitled to participate in governmental transparency and comment processes under California law. This clarification addresses a growing challenge facing public agencies as AI systems become capable of generating large-scale automated requests, comments, and other interactions that can overwhelm city, county, and agency resources and obscure authentic public engagement.

This bill thoughtfully protects the integrity of California’s transparency laws, including the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Public Records Act, California Environmental Quality Act, and Administrative Procedure Act, by ensuring these laws continue to serve their intended purpose: facilitating meaningful human participation in government decision-making.



For cities like Sunnyvale, which actively embraces technological innovation while maintaining a strong commitment to transparency and civic engagement, SB 1159 provides an important framework for responsible governance. Establishing clear statewide guardrails will help local governments implement emerging technologies in ways that enhance public service while preserving accountability and public confidence.

Additionally, SB 1159 recognizes the very real administrative burdens that AI-generated mass participation campaigns can impose on local agencies. As I related when we spoke, we think we had our first AI public comment given during a Council Meeting earlier this year. By ensuring governmental processes remain responsive to genuine public input rather than automated systems operating at a potentially massive scale, this legislation helps protect limited public resources and supports effective civic participation.

As California continues to lead in both technology and public policy innovation, SB 1159 strikes an appropriate balance between encouraging responsible technological advancement and safeguarding democratic institutions. The City of Sunnyvale appreciates your leadership on this important issue.

SB 1159 is also consistent with the City of Sunnyvale's Long-Term Advocacy Positions under Council Policy 7.0, which support preserving local government administrative flexibility and reducing operational burdens associated with state mandates. By clarifying that artificial intelligence systems and other nonhuman entities are not considered "persons" under the Ralph M. Brown Act and related transparency laws, the bill helps ensure that public engagement processes remain effective, manageable, and focused on meaningful human participation

For these reasons, the City of Sunnyvale respectfully supports SB 1159 and thanks you for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or David Carnahan, City Clerk, at dcarnahan@sunnyvale.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Larry Klein".

Larry Klein
Mayor



cc: Senator Dr. Aisha Wahab
Assembly Member Patrick Ahrens
City Council
Tim Kirby, City Manager
Sarah Johnson-Rios, Assistant City Manager
David Carnahan, City Clerk