

March 3, 2026

Senator Maria Durazo
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – SB 922 (Laird): Vehicles: local agency charges: use of streets or highways.

Dear Chair Durazo,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write in support of SB 922 (Laird), which would clarify and reaffirm longstanding local authority related to the recovery of street maintenance and repair costs associated with providing essential public services.

Local governments are responsible for maintaining most local streets and roads in California. Essential public services, including garbage, recycling, and green waste collection, rely on the regular use of local streets by heavy service vehicles. These vehicles are critical to protecting public health and environmental quality, and for decades their use of local streets has been accounted for through existing service-related rates, fees, or franchise arrangements.

Cities and counties have long worked collaboratively with service providers, including waste haulers, to incorporate the cost of maintaining streets used to deliver essential services into these established arrangements. These practices are familiar, predictable, and transparent for both local governments and service providers, and help ensure that streets remain safe and functional for the delivery of services communities rely on every day.

Recently, a court decision created uncertainty around these long-standing practices. As a result, cities and counties are facing litigation challenging existing service-related cost recovery mechanisms, placing critical street maintenance funding at risk and creating uncertainty for local governments and service providers alike.

SB 922 would address this uncertainty by clarifying that restrictions on local road charges apply only to weight-based charges imposed for the privilege of using streets or highways. The bill further makes clear that fees for the provision of public services may recover the cost of street maintenance and repair associated with providing such services. By reaffirming existing authority, SB 922 would restore clarity, reduce unnecessary litigation, and provide certainty for all parties involved.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey is happy to support SB 922. Should you have any questions, please contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker at 916-930-7780.

Sincerely,

Wendy Root Askew
Chair
County of Monterey Board of Supervisors