



County of Monterey

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June 8, 2026

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco
Member, California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 4510
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1821 (Pacheco) California Public Records Act: agency response time. As Amended April 6, 2026 – SUPPORT.

Dear Assemblymember Pacheco,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I write in support of AB 1821 (Pacheco), which would clarify that public agencies have 10 business days for initial determinations and allows for extensions in response to a California Public Records Act request.

The California Public Records Act (CPRA) is a vital tool that enables the public to hold government accountable. Local agencies take these responsibilities seriously and devote substantial resources to responding thoroughly and promptly to public records requests. Our members are committed to transparency and accountability.

AB 1821 provides an important and practical clarification to CPRA response timelines. The bill's shift from "calendar days" to "business days" for initial determinations and extensions is a common-sense update that reflects the operational realities of local agencies. Public agencies generally do not have staff available on weekends or holidays, yet current law continues to toll CPRA deadlines during these periods. A business-day standard ensures agencies have the full, intended number of working days to conduct thorough and accurate searches for disclosable records.

Under existing law, agencies must determine within 10 days whether a request seeks disclosable records, with a possible 14-day extension in unusual circumstances. Neither timeframe accounts for weekends or holidays when staff are unavailable. AB 1821 corrects this discrepancy by converting these periods to business days, helping agencies comply with the law more effectively and consistently.

Local agencies across California have seen a sharp rise in both the volume and complexity of CPRA requests, reporting a 73% increase over five years and noting that more than 90% of agencies have had to divert staff time away from core services to meet these demands.



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Modern government operations now generate far more disclosable records, including emails, texts, and internal messages, which require extensive searching, review, and redaction of sensitive information such as attorney-client communications, personal identifiers, and medical or criminal data. At the same time, agencies have lost key revenue sources that once offset these costs: Proposition 42 eliminated state reimbursement for CPRA compliance, and a 2020 California Supreme Court ruling restricted agencies from recovering staff time or technical costs associated with producing records.

As a result, local governments must absorb the full cost of increasingly time-intensive requests.

We appreciate the author's efforts and remain committed to continued conversations about broader CPRA reform. The business-day clarification in the bill is a narrow but meaningful improvement that will help agencies comply with the law more effectively and consistently.

For these reasons, the County of Monterey is happy to support AB 1821. 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