

◆◆CITY LETTERHEAD◆◆

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Rob Bonta
California State Assembly State
Capitol Building, Room 2148
Sacramento, CA 95814 FAX: (916)
319-2118

RE: AB 1479 (Bonta): as Amended 03/21/17. Public Records: Supervisor of Records: Fines
Notice of Opposition

Dear Assembly Member Bonta: The City of Palos Verdes Estates respectfully opposes Assembly Bill (AB) 1479. The proposal would place additional burdens on staff and establishes new and costly punitive damages assessed to agencies above and beyond plaintiffs' attorney fees established in current law. The proposed legislation would particularly impact smaller cities like Palos Verdes Estates. Our City must comply with the strict guidelines inherent with the CPRA with limited staff. AB 1479 would cause further delays in processing requests by creating an additional step in the process whereby every request denial would have to be reviewed by the Supervisor of Record before a final determination from the agency can be issued. The City of Palos Verdes Estates currently faces a significant budget shortfall. To deal with our shortfall, the City may have significant personnel changes and shift workloads to accommodate fewer staff members. In addition to staffing challenges, adding the additional punitive damages awards as high as \$0,000 per violation will lead to a litany of satellite litigation given the grounds for punitive damages are so vast. Local agencies already potentially face significant liability exposure each time a request is denied due to the potential award of attorneys' fees. For these reasons, the City of Palos Verdes Estates respectfully opposes AB 1479. Sincerely,

James D. Vandever
Mayor
City of Palos Verdes Estates

cc: Palos Verdes Estates City Council
Senator Ben Allen, District 26
Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi, District 26
[Alison Merrilees](#), Assembly Appropriations Committee
[Paul Dress](#), Assembly Republican Caucus
Jeff Kiernan, League of California Cities (via email)
Meg Desmond, League of California Cities (via email)