



April 4, 2026

Mayor

Lauren Kleiman

Mayor Pro Tem

Noah Blom

Council Members

Michelle Barto

Robyn Grant

Joe Stapleton

Sara J. Weber

Erik Kenneth Weigand

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

**RE: SB 1159 (Cabaldon) Artificial intelligence: Transparency and governance
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Cabaldon,

I write on behalf of the City of Newport Beach in support of SB 1159, which reflects a significant step forward in ensuring transparency and accountability in the use of artificial intelligence (AI) within governmental operations across California. Given our city's commitment to open governance and the responsible use of technology, we support this proposed legislation and its intended goals to safeguard public interest.

SB 1159, by defining and regulating the role of artificial intelligence in the engagement with government agencies, aligns with our values to maintain transparency and ensure that public resources are governed efficiently and without bias. The delineation that machines and nonhuman agents cannot stand in as 'persons' under the existing transparency acts addresses an essential gap in current legislation.

In Newport Beach, we have been pioneering efforts to integrate technology into our administrative framework. However, we recognize the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements concerning public trust and ethical governance. By establishing clear boundaries and protocols, this bill will help mitigate potential misinterpretations and misuse of AI in public matters, providing confidence to our residents and stakeholders.

We believe the legislative intent to foster transparency through governance in AI will set a precedent that encourages other municipalities to adopt similar measures, promoting an ecosystem of trust and openness across governments at all levels in California.

Furthermore, SB 1159 asserts the commitment of California to uphold its constitutional dictum of granting the public access to information about governmental business conduct. This aspect is not only crucial for informed citizen participation but also ingrains a discipline in administrative processes that ensures AI enhances governmental functions rather than complicating them.

As we face a continuously evolving digital landscape, establishing a legal framework that distinctly outlines the roles of AI systems is imperative. SB 1159 promises to advance this framework by making legislative findings and declarations related to these provisions.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support SB 1159.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kleiman



Mayor
City of Newport Beach

Cc: Newport Beach City Council