



CITY OF MURRIETA

May 4, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarty
Member, California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 970 (McCarty) Planning and zoning: electric vehicle charging stations: permit application: approval.
Notice of OPPOSITION

Dear Assembly Member McCarty,

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, we must respectfully must oppose Assembly Bill 970. AB 970 would require applications to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to be deemed complete within five business days by municipal jurisdictions. This measure also requires such applications to be deemed approved within 15 business days after the application was submitted if the municipality has not issued a permit and if the building official has not made findings that the proposed installation could have adverse impacts.

Cities and counties face many challenges in reviewing EV charging applications. Some of these challenges include, incomplete or poor quality permit applications, a high volume of permit applications at any given time, lack of adequate staff capacity, and the need for infrastructure upgrades as the result of new device installation. Additionally, EV charging retrofits can be very complex, costly, and technical making a 15-day approval time difficult regardless of jurisdiction type (rural, urban, suburban). AB 970 places an untenable burden on local governments and creates a separate and unequal permitting and inspection process specifically for EV charging stations.

For Cities and Counties with finite resources, having to focus on certain permit types with very short turnarounds results in less resources to expedite other types of permits. AB 970 would unfairly prioritize EV charging applications for permits over all permittees, including projects related to affordable housing, health and safety, and other established or emerging industries. Additionally, this approach would not take into account the differences in permittee—whether they are a homeowner seeking a building permit for their plug-in vehicle, or a more complicated installation of a large public charging station.

For these reasons, City of Murrieta opposes AB 970. If you have any questions, or need more information, about the City's position, please contact Louie Lacasella, City Manager's Office at (951) 461-6008 or llacasella@MurrietaCA.Gov.



CITY OF MURRIETA

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Vinton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott Vinton
Mayor

cc: Murrieta City Council
Senator Melissa Melendez
Assemblyman Kelly Seyarto
Erin Sasse, League of California Cities