



CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

**THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON, TELEPHONICALLY AND
ELECTRONICALLY AT THE FOLLOWING:**

**CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
21815 PIONEER BOULEVARD
HAWAIIAN GARDENS, CA 90716**

TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: (669) 900-6833, 6476620089#

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

11:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Board Members: Francis De Leon Sanchez, Vice Chair - *Bell Gardens*
Hugo Argumedo, Secretary – *Commerce*
Emma Sharif, Chair – *Compton*
Victor Farfan, Member – *Hawaiian Gardens*

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation is now open. The members of the audience now have the right to speak on agenda items and any item under the jurisdiction of the Authority. This period will be limited to thirty minutes, with no more than three minutes for each speaker. Anyone desiring to speak during the public comment period must submit an email request juan@sixheron.com, or to the Authority Secretary via Zoom prior to the close of public participation. Due to policy and Brown Act requirements, action will not be taken on any issues not on the Agenda.

Please state your name and address clearly.

4. NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

4-1. Consideration and Possible Action to approve the Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board.

4-2. Consideration and Possible Action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated May 14, 2025.

4-3. Status Update & Report from California Advocacy, LLC with respect to legislative matters.

4-4. Consideration and Possible Action on Legislative & Regulatory Matters.

4-5. Consideration and Possible Action on AB 1221 (Bryan), a Proposed State Legislation Related to Workplace Surveillance in the State of California.

4-6. Consideration and Possible Action on AB 1331 (Elhawary), a Proposed State Legislation Related to Workplace Surveillance in the State of California.

4-7. Consideration and Possible Action on SB 783 (Rubio), a Proposed State Legislation Related to Outdoor Advertising Displays in the State of California.

4-8. Consideration and Possible Action regarding FY 2025-2026 Annual Budget.

4-9. Consideration and Possible Action regarding Membership in the California Contract Cities Association.

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

5-1. General Counsel's Report

Pursuant to Government Code § 54954.2 (a)(3) – A report to the Board of Directors and the public on General Counsel's activities, including compliance efforts, approval of contracts as to form, receipt of notices, and requests to place matters

on subsequent agendas (excluding any matters qualifying for closed session consideration).

5-2. Executive Director's Report

6. NEW BUSINESS - CLOSED SESSION

6-1. Conference with Legal Counsel Anticipated Litigation - Significant Exposure to Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 subdivision (d)(4) (One Matter)

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

8. CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

This is the time and place for the Chairman and Board Members to report on any other items of interest. Upon request by an individual Board Member, the Authority may choose to take action on any of the subject matters listed below.

Treasurer Farfan (Hawaiian Gardens)

Secretary Argumedo (Commerce)

Vice Chair De Leon Sanchez (Bell Gardens)

Chair Sharif (Compton)

9. ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority will be held June 11, 2025 in the City of Bell Gardens.



CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING

**CITY OF COMPTON
CITY HALL
205 SOUTH WILLOWBROOK AVENUE
COMPTON, CA 90220**

TELECONFERENCE PHONE NUMBER: (669) 900-6833, 6476620089#

ELECTRONICALLY AT ZOOM MEETING ID: 647 662 0089

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

11:17 AM

M I N U T E S

1. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

Chair Sharif called the meeting to order at 11:17 am and performed a roll call. Quorum was established under the following participation:

- Emma Sharif, *Chair – Compton*
- Marco Barcena, *Alternate Member – Bell Gardens*
- Hugo Argumedo, *Secretary – Commerce*
- Victor Farfan, *Member – Hawaiian Gardens*

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Secretary Argumedo moved and Member Farfan seconded to approve the agenda as posted and presented.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes

Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following individuals were present during the meeting: Alternate Member Darden, Gisselle Delgado, Stephanie Arechiga and Juan Garza participated in person. Gary Townsend, Joy Harn and Marvin Pineda participated via Zoom.

No comments were provided by members of the public.

4. NEW BUSINESS – OPEN SESSION

4-1. Election of Officer to the office of Treasurer of the Board.

Executive Director Garza opened the nomination for Treasurer:

Secretary Argumedo nominated Member Farfan The nomination was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-2. Consideration and Possible Action to approve the Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board.

Secretary Argumedo moved and Treasurer Farfan seconded to approve the Minutes.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Abstain
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-3. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Financial Summary and Warrant Register dated April 9, 2025.

Executive Director Garza provided a general and specialized overview of the financial state of the JPA.

Secretary Argumedo moved and Treasurer Farfan seconded to receive and file the Financial Summary and Warrant Register, as presented.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-4. Status update & report from California Advocacy, LLC with respect to legislative matters.

Mr. Pineda reported on Attorney General Bonta's proposed regulations on blackjack and third-party rotational games. He also reported on potential tribal-sponsored legislation on lands, and finally a 2026 ballot initiative on gaming is anticipated.

Alternate Member Barcena moved and Treasurer Farfan seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-5. Consideration and possible action on legislative & regulatory matters.

None.

4-6. Consideration and Possible Adoption of Resolution of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority Authorizing the Execution of Minutes for All Meetings Held by the Authority From January 21, 2021 Through December 15, 2021.

Staff reported that while agendas for the meetings of the board from January 21, 2021 through December 15, 2021 exist, the board did not consider nor approve execution of those minutes in 2021.

Secretary Argumedo moved and Treasurer Farfan seconded to authorize execution of minutes from January 21, 2021 through December 15, 2021.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
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Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-7. Consideration and Possible Adoption of Resolution of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority Authorizing the Execution of Minutes for All Meetings Held by the Authority From January 19, 2022 Through June 15, 2022.

Staff reported that while agendas for the meetings of the board from January 19, 2022 through June 15, 2022 exist, the board did not consider nor approve execution of those minutes in 2022.

Secretary Argumedo moved and Treasurer Farfan seconded to authorize execution of minutes from January 19, 2022 through June 15, 2022.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

4-8. Consideration and possible action to receive and file Updated Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2025.

Executive Director Garza provided an updated calendar for the Board's consideration to approve due to the withdrawal from the JPA of the City of Cudahy in March 2025.

Treasurer Farfan moved and Secretary Argumedo seconded to receive & file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

5. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

5-1. Report of General Counsel

No action.

5-2. Executive Director Report/Summary

Executive Director Garza reported on:

- 1) JPA Membership Expansion Updates
- 2) Upcoming 2025 Gamig Efforts:
 - a. Judicial (ongoing)
 - b. Legislative (monitoring)
 - c. Regulatory (AG Regs – Re-Released Friday April 11, 2025)
 - d. Public Initiative (ongoing)
- 3) Contract Cities Engagement (Commerce Casino Last Month & Annual Membership)
- 4) League of California Cities Engagement (Future Working Group)
- 5) Annual Form 700 Reporting Updates – LA County – Extended to June 2, 2025
- 6) Executive Director Participating Remotely Next Month

Treasurer Farfan moved and Secretary Argumedo seconded to receive and file the report.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Bell Gardens	Yes
Commerce	Yes
Compton	Yes
Hawaiian Gardens	Yes

6. OTHER MATTERS AND REPORTS

6-1. None

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

8. CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

This is the time and place for the Chairman and Board Members to report on any other items of interest. Upon request by an individual Board Member, the Authority may choose to take action on any of the subject matters listed below.

Treasurer Farfan (Hawaiian Gardens)

Secretary Argumedo (Commerce) – *Shared Former CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra was entering the CA Governor’s race for the November 2026 election.*

Alternate Member Barcena (Bell Gardens)

Chair Sharif (Compton)

9. ADJOURNMENT (12:16 PM)

At 12:16 pm, Chair Sharif adjourned the meeting to the next regular meeting of the board of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority to be held on May 14, 2025 in the City of Hawaiian Gardens.

Emma Sharif, Chair

ATTEST:

Hugo Argumedo, Secretary



**CALIFORNIA CITIES FOR SELF-RELIANCE
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY**

**WARRANT REPORT AND FINANCIAL
SUMMARY – APRIL 2025**

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025.

BALANCE SHEET

05/14/2025 JPA MEETING

Page: 1

5/13/2025

4:06 pm

City of Hawaiian Gardens

As of: 4/30/2025

Balances

Fund: 50 - CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE**Assets**

1000.0000 CASH

167,740.35

Total Assets**167,740.35****Liabilities**

2100.0000 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

16,210.00

Total Liabilities**16,210.00****Reserves/Balances**

2900.0000 FUND BALANCE-UNASSIGNED

117,659.69

2920.0000 CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE

33,870.66

Total Reserves/Balances**151,530.35****Total Liabilities & Balances****167,740.35**

05/14/2025 JPA MEETING

Page: 1

Ref. No.	Vendor Name	Invoice No.	Posting Date	PO Number	Invoice Date	Invoice Description	Invoice Amount
182752	HUGO ARGUMEDO	2025-04-09	04/09/2025		04/09/2025	04.09.25 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
182753	MARCO BARCENA	2025-04-09	04/09/2025		04/09/2025	04.09.25 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
182754	VICTOR FARFAN	2025-04-09	04/09/2025		04/09/2025	04.09.25 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00
182755	JUAN GARZA	2025-04-09	04/09/2025		04/09/2025	APR 2025 SALARY	6,744.00
						Vendor Total:	6,744.00
182756	OLIVAREZ MADRUGA LAW	27687	04/30/2025		04/30/2025	APR 2025 SVCS - BOARD MEETIN	1,800.00
						Vendor Total:	1,800.00
182757	EVELYN PINEDA	2025-04-17	04/17/2025		04/17/2025	APR 2025 SVCS	6,666.00
						Vendor Total:	6,666.00
182758	EMMA SHARIF	2025-04-09	04/09/2025		04/09/2025	04.09.25 MTG STIPEND	250.00
						Vendor Total:	250.00

Grand Total:	16,210.00
Less Credit Memos:	<u>0.00</u>
Net Total:	16,210.00
Less Hand Check Total:	<u>0.00</u>
Outstanding Invoice Total:	<u>16,210.00</u>

REVENUE/EXPENDITURE REPORT
05/14/2025 JPA MEETING

Page: 1
5/13/2025
4:09 pm

City of Hawaiian Gardens

For the Period: 7/1/2024 to 4/30/2025	Original Bud.	Amended Bud.	YTD Actual	CURR MTH	Encumb. YTD	UnencBal	% Bud
Fund Type: SR SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS							
Fund: 50 - CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE							
Revenues							
Function:							
Dept: 0000 ASSETS							
Acct Class: REV REVENUE							
3742.0050 JPA MEMBERSHIP FUNDING	157,500.00	157,500.00	157,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.0
3742.0052 CASINO DONATIONS	70,000.00	70,000.00	55,000.00	2,500.00	0.00	15,000.00	78.6
REVENUE	227,500.00	227,500.00	212,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	15,000.00	93.4
ASSETS	227,500.00	227,500.00	212,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	15,000.00	93.4
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	212,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	15,000.00	93.4
Revenues	227,500.00	227,500.00	212,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	15,000.00	93.4
Expenditures							
Function:							
Dept: 4908 JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY							
Acct Class: OPER OPERATING COSTS							
4200.0050 CONTRACT SVC-EX DIR JPA	80,925.00	80,925.00	67,440.00	6,744.00	0.00	13,485.00	83.3
4200.0052 COMMUNICATIONS	14,400.00	14,400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,400.00	0.0
4202.0000 AUDIT SERVICES	6,500.00	6,500.00	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	-1,000.00	115.4
4210.0000 TRAVEL & MEETINGS	0.00	0.00	1,117.48	0.00	0.00	-1,117.48	0.0
4211.0000 MEETING STIPENDS	17,250.00	17,250.00	11,475.00	1,000.00	0.00	5,775.00	66.5
4213.0000 OTHER OPERATING COSTS	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,000.00	0.0
4250.0001 LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE/JPA	80,000.00	80,000.00	66,660.00	6,666.00	0.00	13,340.00	83.3
4252.0000 SPECIAL COUNSEL - CONTRACT	19,425.00	19,425.00	24,436.86	1,800.00	0.00	-5,011.86	125.8
OPERATING COSTS	227,500.00	227,500.00	178,629.34	16,210.00	0.00	48,870.66	78.5
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY	227,500.00	227,500.00	178,629.34	16,210.00	0.00	48,870.66	78.5
Function:	227,500.00	227,500.00	178,629.34	16,210.00	0.00	48,870.66	78.5
Expenditures	227,500.00	227,500.00	178,629.34	16,210.00	0.00	48,870.66	78.5
Net Effect for CA CITIES FOR SELF RELIANCE	0.00	0.00	33,870.66	-13,710.00	0.00	-33,870.66	0.0
Change in Fund Balance:			33,870.66				
Net Effect for SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	0.00	0.00	33,870.66	-13,710.00	0.00	-33,870.66	
Grand Total Net Effect:	0.00	0.00	33,870.66	-13,710.00	0.00	-33,870.66	



1107 9th Street, Suite 420,

Sacramento, CA 95814

Phone: (916) 869-3685

www.CaliforniaAdvocacy.com

May 14, 2025

California Update: Agenda

1. California Attorney General – Cardroom Regulations – Letters
2. SB 783 (Rubio) – Outdoor Advertising
3. AB 1221 (Bryan) and AB 1331 (Elhawary) – Workplace Surveillance



TO: Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee Members

FROM: California Gaming Association, California Cardroom Alliance, and Communities 4 California Cardrooms

DATE: April 17, 2025

CC: Assemblymember Isaac Bryan
Members of the Legislature

RE: **Assembly Bill 1221 (Bryan): OPPOSE**

The California Gaming Association (CGA), California Cardroom Alliance (CCA), and the Communities 4 California Cardrooms (CCC) representing licensed cardrooms throughout California, is writing to voice our opposition to Assembly Bill 1221 (Bryan), as amended on March 28, 2025. While we appreciate the bill's intent to increase transparency regarding workplace surveillance, AB 1221 as currently written is overly broad, creating substantial risks and burdens for our businesses. **These legal conflicts would make it impossible for cardroom operators to comply with both AB 1221 and current strict regulatory requirements, placing operators in an untenable position.**

AB 1221's Notice Requirements Could Undermine Security and Investigations

Our members use workplace surveillance to protect employees, customers, and sensitive financial operations. AB 1221's requirement to disclose the specific location of surveillance tools could effectively neutralize their purpose. In an industry where the safe handling of cash and chips is critical, revealing camera placements or anti-theft measures not only jeopardizes employee safety but could also facilitate criminal activity.

Additionally, the legislation's expansive vendor disclosure requirements—identifying every third party with access to surveillance data and detailing their usage conditions—are impractical. Our members routinely work with legal teams, compliance vendors, payment processors, and regulators, all of whom may access worker data during audits, investigations, or litigation. Mandating disclosure of each access instance could compromise confidential investigations and unnecessarily complicate compliance efforts.

AB 1221's Restrictions on Data Sharing Are Incompatible with Gaming Compliance Standards

The proposed prohibitions on data transfers—including the requirement that vendors be jointly liable for breaches—conflict with existing regulatory and privacy frameworks. Cardrooms operate under rigorous oversight by the California Bureau of Gambling Control and the California Gambling Control Commission. Sharing certain employee information with these entities is not only routine—it is legally required. AB 1221's constraints could inadvertently criminalize or disrupt standard practices that ensure regulatory compliance.

Further, requiring vendors (such as attorneys or IT investigators) to delete all surveillance data at the end of a contract—even in active investigations or litigation—creates unacceptable legal risk and potential evidence destruction.

Overly Broad Definitions of Surveillance Tools and Prohibited Data Uses

AB 1221's definitions capture common business tools such as timekeeping software, cameras, security logs, and even communication platforms. This means regular HR activities, such as performance reviews or workplace safety monitoring, could be unintentionally restricted.

The bill also prohibits employers from collecting or using data that may infer characteristics like veteran status, religious affiliation, or health conditions. But resumes, employee groups, and compliance initiatives (like ADA accommodations) often contain or imply this type of information. Cardrooms, like other employers, already adhere to anti-discrimination laws such as FEHA, making this provision duplicative and unnecessarily restrictive.

Employment Decisions Should Not Be Constrained by Surveillance Limitations

AB 1221 prohibits using surveillance data as the **primary basis** for employment decisions. This would bar employers from acting on clear evidence of misconduct—such as theft captured on security footage or sexual harassment in emails—unless corroborated by a live witness. In an industry where security is paramount, this limitation is both dangerous and unsound.

AB 1221 undermines not only regulatory compliance but also legal and criminal enforcement efforts by elevating eyewitness accounts over objective video evidence. Deferring to eyewitness testimony in place of reliable surveillance footage is dangerous and shortsighted—over 60% of wrongful convictions uncovered by the [Innocence Project](#) involve eyewitness misidentification. In high-stakes, high-traffic environments like cardrooms, removing access to visual evidence directly compromises guest and employee safety. Furthermore, it conflicts with the laws and regulations that cardrooms must follow.

Data Access and Retention Requirements Are Unmanageable

Allowing workers or their representatives unrestricted access to all collected data—including internal emails, security footage, and chats—raises confidentiality, privacy, and competitive concerns. Cardroom operations involve sensitive data that, if widely disclosed, could harm both employee privacy and business security.

Moreover, mandating five years of retention for all surveillance-derived data runs counter to cybersecurity best practices and dramatically increases the risk of data breaches. Shorter, purpose-driven retention aligned with existing legal requirements should be the standard.

We urge lawmakers to consider the unique regulatory and operational realities of California's cardroom industry that will place operators into an untenable situation as the current regulatory requirements conflict with this legislation. AB 1221, while well-intentioned, introduces rigid mandates that conflict with established protocols, expose employers to legal liability, and endanger the integrity of investigations and compliance. For these reasons, we urge you to OPPOSE AB 1221 (Bryan).



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Isaac G. Bryan
Assemblymember, District 55
1021 O Street, Suite 6320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose AB 1221 (Bryan) – Workplace surveillance tools

Dear Assemblymember Bryan:

On behalf of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority (JPA), which represents the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, and Hawaiian Gardens, we write in strong opposition to AB 1221 (Bryan).

The JPA's mission is to empower communities and leadership statewide to advocate for cardrooms as vital resources to cities and local services such as police, fire, schools and transportation. We achieve our mission by educating and engaging the community and stakeholders.

Cardrooms are highly regulated environments where security and compliance are paramount. AB 1221's requirement to publicly disclose the location of surveillance equipment threatens to render these systems ineffective. Revealing specific placements of cameras or surveillance tools increases the risk of tampering, theft, and coordinated criminal activity, putting both employees and patrons in harm's way.

The bill's expansive vendor disclosure requirements, mandating identification of every third party with access to surveillance data, are unworkable. Cardrooms regularly interact with attorneys, regulators, payment processors, and compliance professionals. Requiring detailed disclosure and shared liability for these vendors will disrupt regulatory oversight and inhibit lawful investigations. Additionally, AB 1221's mandate that vendors delete surveillance data at the end of contracts, regardless of ongoing litigation or investigations, creates the risk of destroying critical evidence. In the gaming industry, surveillance is not merely a business function, it is a legal obligation. AB 1221's definitions of surveillance tools and data are so expansive that they could unintentionally restrict timekeeping, safety monitoring, HR platforms, and even routine email communications. Moreover, the bill would ban data collection that "infers" characteristics like religious affiliation

or health status, even though this data may be voluntarily provided or required for ADA or compliance purposes.

AB 1221 prohibits using surveillance data as the primary basis for employment decisions, even when clear evidence of misconduct exists. In cases of theft, harassment, or fraud, this limitation could prevent employers from taking swift and justified action. Elevating eyewitness testimony over objective video evidence invites misidentification and undermines workplace justice. The bill would give employees or their representatives sweeping access to internal communications, surveillance data, and video footage, raising serious concerns about confidentiality and competitive harm. Furthermore, the five-year data retention mandate increases the risk of cyberattacks and contradicts best practices in data minimization and security.

Municipalities in our JPA rely heavily on revenue from local cardrooms to support essential services. In Hawaiian Gardens, for example, over 70% of the city's general fund comes from the Gardens Casino. The JPA's member cities cannot afford legislation that increases liability, reduces public safety, and puts regulatory compliance at risk. Legislation that disrupts the operational stability of cardrooms directly threatens the financial sustainability of our cities. For cities that depend on safe and compliant cardroom operations, AB 1221 represents a serious threat. It creates conflicts with state gaming regulations, undermines public safety, and imposes new liabilities that cities and operators cannot afford.

For these reasons, the JPA opposes AB 1221 (Bryan).

Sincerely,



Juan Garza
Executive Director
California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority



TO: Assembly Privacy and Consumer Protection Committee Members

FROM: California Gaming Association, California Cardroom Alliance, and Communities 4 California Cardrooms

DATE: April 17, 2025

CC: Assemblymember Isaac Bryan
Members of the Legislature

RE: **Assembly Bill 1331 (Elhawary): OPPOSE**

On behalf of the California Gaming Association (CGA), California Cardroom Alliance (CCA), and the Communities 4 California Cardrooms (CCC) representing licensed cardrooms across the state, we respectfully write in strong opposition to AB 1331 authored by Assemblymember Sade Elhawary.

AB 1331 as written, is in direct conflict with current gaming regulations and workplace safety laws which would make it impossible for cardroom operators to comply with both regulatory requirements and this legislation. In addition, it would significantly impair the ability of licensed cardrooms to maintain safe and secure environments for employees, patrons, and the general public. AB 1331 is overly broad and poses a direct threat to public safety, regulatory compliance, and the integrity of our industry. No industry—especially one as regulated as cardrooms – can be expected to choose between breaking one law to comply with another.

AB 1331 Undermines Security and Regulatory Requirements in the Cardroom Industry

Licensed cardrooms are among the most heavily regulated workplaces in California. Our facilities are required by the California Bureau of Gambling Control and the California Gambling Control Commission to operate under strict surveillance protocols, including continuous video monitoring of gaming areas, cashier cages, and high-traffic common areas. These measures are not optional—they are mandated by state law to deter criminal activity, ensure compliance with gaming regulations, and maintain the trust of law enforcement and the public.

AB 1331's prohibition on monitoring in "private, off-duty areas"—which includes breakrooms, cafeterias, and smoking areas—would severely restrict our ability to maintain the comprehensive surveillance systems that regulators require. Additionally, the bill's mandate to disable surveillance tools during "off-duty hours," including meal and rest breaks, creates compliance challenges that are not only impractical but could also jeopardize cardroom licenses.

Impractical Requirements Create Legal Risk and Operational Chaos

Cardrooms operate 24/7 and employ workers in shifts with staggered breaks. Under AB 1331, video surveillance would need to be selectively disabled in real time based on the break status of individual employees—an unworkable standard that invites legal exposure and increases the risk of theft, fraud, or violence going undetected. The bill also extends to surveillance of vehicles, property, or remote equipment used by workers, including employer-owned surveillance systems installed to prevent cheating or track the secure movement of chips and funds. These provisions conflict directly with long-standing practices used to protect both worker and patron safety.

Even more concerning, AB 1331 effectively elevates eyewitness accounts over objective video evidence, which undermines not only regulatory compliance but also legal and criminal enforcement efforts. Deferring to eyewitness testimony in place of reliable surveillance footage is dangerous and shortsighted—over 60% of wrongful convictions uncovered by the [Innocence Project](#) involve eyewitness misidentification. In high-stakes, high-traffic environments like cardrooms, removing access to visual evidence directly compromises guest and employee safety.

Conflicts with Other State Laws and Public Safety Standards

AB 1331 conflicts with new and existing Cal/OSHA workplace violence prevention requirements, including SB 553 (2023), which encourages employers to implement robust safety measures—many of which rely on continuous monitoring. It would also impede compliance with numerous public safety and regulatory standards mandated by Cal/OSHA, Title 31, and workplace violence prevention plans. Our industry takes these obligations seriously and must have the tools to meet them without facing lawsuits for simply protecting employees and the public.

Cardrooms are currently subject to strict rules governing problem gambling programs (including exclusions and restrictions), law enforcement bans (such as excluding guests under official directive), restrictions on minors and alcohol consumption, incident reporting requirements to the Bureau of Gambling Control (BGC), enforcement of restraining orders, and facility and parking lot surveillance requirements under the Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS). These standards are critical to maintaining safety and order—and none of them exclude employees on break from coverage.

We urge you to recognize that surveillance in cardrooms is about ensuring a secure, compliant, and transparent environment in a highly regulated industry. AB 1331, as currently written, puts cardrooms in an impossible position: comply with state gaming and safety regulations, or risk litigation and penalties for violating this proposed law. We respectfully urge you to OPPOSE AB 1331.



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Sade Elhawary
Assemblymember, District 57
1021 O Street, Suite 6320
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Oppose AB 1331 (Elhawary) - Workplace Surveillance

Dear Assemblymember Elhawary:

On behalf of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority (JPA), representing the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, and Hawaiian Gardens, we write in strong opposition to AB 1331 (Elhawary).

The JPA comprises five member cities with local card club operations that include the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, and Hawaiian Gardens. The JPA's mission is to empower communities and leadership statewide to advocate for card rooms as vital resources to cities and local services such as police, fire, schools and transportation. We achieve our mission by educating and engaging the community and stakeholders.

AB 1331 would prohibit video surveillance in areas deemed "private, off-duty," such as break rooms, cafeterias, and outdoor smoking areas. While the intent of protecting employee privacy is understandable, the bill conflicts with existing regulatory requirements and would severely impact public safety, operational security, and compliance across licensed cardrooms, many of which are located in JPA cities and serve as vital economic engines for municipal services.

Cardrooms are among the most highly regulated entities in California. They are subject to continuous monitoring mandates from both the California Bureau of Gambling Control and the California Gambling Control Commission. These measures are not optional, they are required by state law to deter criminal activity, ensure compliance, and protect the safety of employees and patrons.

AB 1331 would create a gap in that oversight by forcing operators to disable surveillance in key areas and during "off-duty" periods such as breaks. For 24-hour cardroom operations, this is not

only impractical but also introduces legal uncertainty and threatens licensure. Surveillance would have to be turned on and off based on the status of each employee in real-time, a logistical impossibility in fast-paced gaming environments.

Moreover, AB 1331 undercuts workplace violence prevention efforts, including those required under SB 553 (2023). In facilities where large amounts of cash, high-value chips, and sensitive financial data are handled, continuous video surveillance is a baseline standard, not an intrusion. The bill also undermines law enforcement coordination, incident reporting requirements, and enforcement of restraining orders and other public safety protections.

Municipalities in our JPA rely heavily on revenue from local cardrooms to support essential services. Legislation that disrupts the operational stability of cardrooms directly threatens the financial sustainability of our cities. In Hawaiian Gardens, for example, over 70% of the city's general fund comes from the Gardens Casino. The JPA city members cannot afford legislation that increases liability, reduces public safety, and puts regulatory compliance at risk.

For these reasons, the JPA opposes AB 1331.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Garza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Garza
Executive Director
California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority



SB 783 (Rubio) Outdoor advertising displays

Bill Summary

SB 783 will help support local businesses and local governments by allowing existing outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas to continue operating under existing requirements until January 1, 2030.

Existing Law

Section 5200 et seq. of the Business and Professions Code, also known as the Outdoor Advertising Act, regulates the placement of outdoor advertising displays along public streets and highways. Section 5273 of the Business and Professions Code specifies that the Outdoor Advertising Act's general regulations do not apply to an off-premises advertising display placed within the boundary limits of a redevelopment agency project (as those boundaries existed on December 29, 2011) until January 1, 2026 if specified criteria are met.

Background

The City of Inglewood and many other local governments rely on revenue generated by outdoor advertising displays to supplement their General Fund and fund a variety of important municipal services, including law enforcement, senior citizen services, and youth services programs for their residents. Additionally, these outdoor advertising displays support local jobs and businesses by encouraging local residents and visitors to patronize and support these businesses.

Outdoor advertising displays located in redevelopment areas have historically been regulated differently than other areas because they promote economic development in areas that historically experienced economic hardship. After the state dissolved

redevelopment agencies, state law continued to regulate outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas differently than other areas. Under current state law, the existing regulations of outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas will sunset on January 1, 2026.

Without legislation this year to extend the sunset date, there could be harmful and unnecessary disruptions of economic activities in several communities across the state. By extending the operation of these outdoor advertising displays for four additional years until January 1, 2030, SB 783 will provide time for impacted communities and stakeholders to discuss a permanent solution for regulating these outdoor advertising displays.

Details of the Bill

SB 783 would amend Section 5273 of the Business and Professions Code to extend the existing requirements governing outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas until January 1, 2030.

Support

- City of Hawaiian Gardens
- City of Inglewood
- Hawaiian Gardens Casino
- In-N-Out Burger

For More Information

Alex Hirsch, Legislative Director
 Senator Susan Rubio, District 22
 Office: 916-651-4022
Alex.Hirsch@sen.ca.gov



CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

21815 Pioneer Boulevard, Hawaiian Gardens, CA 90716 | Phone: (562) 420-2641 | www.hgcity.org

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Susan Rubio
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 783 (Rubio) Outdoor advertising displays: former redevelopment agency project areas - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Rubio:

On behalf of The City of Hawaiian Gardens, we are pleased to support SB 783. This bill would extend the sunset date of a law allowing “on premises” LED messaging centers (LEDMC) in specified, former redevelopment areas. Prior legislation, SB 684 (Hill) enacted in 2013, and AB 1175 (Quirk Silva) enacted in 2023, extended the life of “on premises” LEDMCs in former redevelopment areas to January 1, 2026 with the purpose of preserving signs identifying. This law allows these outdoor signs to continue because they promote economic development in areas that historically needed a redevelopment zone designation due to economic hardship.

Redevelopment area LEDMC signs are allowed due to an exception to the California Outdoor Advertising Act (Business & Professions Code Section 5200 et. seq.) in which they are deemed to be “on-premises” signs. Without this “on-premises” designation, the Casino’s sign, and many others across the state, would be prohibited because of their location on “landscaped” freeways or in freeway “bonus” areas as those terms are defined.

In the Fall of 2022, following the expiration of the SB 684 exemption, over 100 outdoor billboards statewide were deemed out of compliance with the California Outdoor Advertising Act by the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) and issued notices of violation (NOV). In the case of the City of Hawaiian Gardens, G.G. Development Corp. a California corporation, received an NOV, dated September 9, 2022, for an LEDMC located on the 605 Freeway south of East Carson St. advertising the Casino. This citation was triggered because the LEDMC is in a Redevelopment Area and on January 1, 2023, the redevelopment area “on premises” exemption expired. The Casino LEDMC has been in this location since 2001. Without this bill, once the AB 1175 extension expires, the LEDMC would need to be removed, or the Casino would face fines of up to \$10,000 a day.

It is our understanding that the number of qualifying signs in redevelopment areas has shrunk in the last decade as redevelopment agencies were wound down and the usefulness of some signs dissipated. Therefore, the legislation should not add any additional workload beyond that already done by Cal Trans.



CITY OF HAWAIIAN GARDENS

Page 2

Taxes paid by the Garden Casino to the City of Hawaiian Gardens generates over 70% of the General Fund revenue for the City. Without this bill, the loss of advertising at this location would have a negative impact on casino operations and correspondingly the City's General Fund revenue.

This bill would allow the applicable city, county, or city and county to request from the Cal Trans a four-year extension for treating a sign in a former redevelopment agency project area as an on-premises display if the sign meets the criteria for a finding of good cause, was in use on December 31, 2022, and complies with specified provisions of the act, including the act's licensing and zoning requirements. Most importantly, Cal Trans retains the discretion under Business and Professions Code section 5273 (3) to deny any request for or end any existing extension if the federal government threatens to withhold transportation funding. This protects the state's interest, while allowing signage important to local communities to remain.

A further extension of this deadline will avoid harmful and unnecessary disruption of economic activities within the City of Hawaiian Gardens and many other cities across the state. We are pleased to support this important measure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dandy De Paula".

Dandy De Paula
Mayor
City of Hawaiian Gardens

CC: Honorable Members, Senate Transportation Committee

Manny Leon, Staff Director, Senate Transportation Committee

Ted Morley, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus



May 2, 2025

The Honorable Susan Rubio
Senator, District 22
1021 O Street, Suite 8710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support SB 783 (Rubio) - Outdoor Advertising Displays

Dear Senator Rubio:

On behalf of the California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority (JPA), we write to express our support for SB 783 (Rubio). SB 783 will help support local businesses and local governments by allowing existing outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas to continue operating under existing requirements until January 1, 2030.

The JPA comprises five member cities with local card club operations that include the cities of Bell Gardens, Commerce, Compton, Cudahy and Hawaiian Gardens. The JPA's mission is to empower communities and leadership statewide to advocate for card rooms as vital resources to cities and local services such as police, fire, schools and transportation. We achieve our mission by educating and engaging the community and stakeholders.

Outdoor advertising displays located in redevelopment areas have historically been regulated differently than other areas because they promote economic development in areas that historically experienced economic hardship. After the state dissolved redevelopment agencies, state law continued to regulate outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas differently than other areas. Prior legislation, SB 684 (Hill) in 2013 and AB 1175 (Quirk-Silva) in 2023, extended the operation of these displays until January 1, 2026, to preserve signage that promotes economic activity in areas historically designated for redevelopment due to economic hardship. Under current state law, the existing regulations of outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas will sunset on January 1, 2026. Without legislation this year to extend the sunset date, there could be harmful and unnecessary disruptions of economic activities in several communities across the state.

As a member of our JPA, the City of Hawaiian Gardens exemplifies the critical role outdoor advertising displays play in supporting municipal services. Hawaiian Gardens relies heavily on revenue from the Gardens Casino to fund essential city services such as public safety, senior programs, and youth services. Over 70% of the City's General Fund comes from casino-related revenue. The Gardens Casino depends on a key outdoor advertising display along the 605 Freeway to attract visitors.

SB 783 would amend Section 5273 of the Business and Professions Code to extend the existing requirements governing outdoor advertising displays located in former redevelopment areas until January 1, 2030. By extending the operation of these outdoor advertising displays for four additional years, SB 783 will provide time for impacted communities and stakeholders to discuss a permanent solution for regulating these outdoor advertising displays.

We thank you for your leadership in authoring SB 783 and for your commitment to supporting local governments and economic development. The JPA urges lawmakers to pass SB 783 to avoid unnecessary disruptions in community services and local economic activity. We look forward to working with you to ensure its successful enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Garza', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Juan Garza
Executive Director
California Cities for Self-Reliance Joint Powers Authority

California Cities for Self-Reliance Budget Presentation DRAFT

ADOPTED Budget FY 2024-25		PROPOSED Budget FY 2025-26
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Revenues:

Annual Funding – Bell Gardens	\$35,000	\$37,500
Annual Funding – Commerce	\$35,000	\$37,500
Annual Funding – Compton	\$35,000	\$37,500
Annual Funding – Cudahy	\$17,500	\$0
Annual Funding – Hawaiian Gardens	\$35,000	\$37,500
Annual Funding – Cardrooms	\$70,000	\$76,500
Annual Funding – Special Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues	\$227,500	\$226,500

Expenses:

FY 2024-25 Budget		FY 2025-26 Budget
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Board of Director's Stipend (14 meetings)	\$17,250	\$14,000
Executive Director	\$80,925	\$80,925
Operation, Travel, Meeting Expenses	\$9,000	\$10,075
Legal Services	\$19,425	\$22,000
Financial/Audit Services	\$6,500	\$7,500
Legislative Lobbying	\$80,000	\$80,000
Communications	\$14,400	\$12,000
Contingency	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$227,500	\$226,500

CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION
17315 Studebaker Road, Suite 210
Cerritos, CA 90703
Phone: (562) 622-5533
Email: info@contractcities.org

2025 Associate Member Program Benefits Package

Summary of Benefits

On behalf of the entire California Contract Cities (CCCA) family, we thank you for your partnership! For more than 68 years CCCA has been on the front lines defending and strengthening local control. The Contract Cities mission to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control is made possible, in part, through your generous partnership.

Each year, CCCA provides numerous educational, advocacy and networking opportunities for our members. Since 2019, CCCA events are open exclusively to our current members and partners.

Your participation and generosity are a key component to our continued success. Please be sure to review our enhanced membership benefits we are adding this year as a result of consultations with our current members. We look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the year.

Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the CCCA Associate Member Program, please contact Executive Director Marcel Rodarte at (562) 622-5533 or Marcel@contractcities.org.

Best regards,



Jennifer Perez, Vice President



Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director

Associate Member Benefits

Due to increased costs, our Associate Member dues have been increased slightly. We are continuously working to enhance the Associate Member benefits to increase the value of your partnership with our Association. We have been working with our Associate Member steering group to provide all our members with the highest value for your continued partnership.

Additional sponsorship opportunities are available at each of our major events (Sacramento Tour, Annual Municipal Seminar Golf Tournament, Annual Municipal Seminar, Fall Educational Summit, City Managers Summit, etc.). Those opportunities will be made available at least 90 days prior to each event. Members at the Platinum and Gold levels will be given the first right of refusal for sponsorships. Please note, additional sponsorships cannot be combined with annual dues to increase sponsorship level.



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION

Join the California Contract Cities family by being an Associate Member today!

Benefits	Platinum \$17,500	Gold \$12,000	Silver \$6,500	Bronze \$4,000	Copper \$2,500
Access to CCCA monthly Board of Directors Meetings.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Company link displayed in Associate Members directory on CCCA website.	Logo	Logo	Listed	Listed	Listed
Priority Selection for Annual Municipal Seminar booth location (deadlines for each tier will be set).	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th
Sponsor recognition during educational seminars/events.	Logo	Logo	Logo	Listed	Listed
Invitation to select CCCA City Managers/Administrators Committee meetings .	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Access to CCCA membership roster .	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Access to CCCA conference registration lists .	✓	✓	✓		
Complimentary registrations for Annual Municipal Seminar.	4	2	1		
Participation in Associate Members Program Steering Committee .	✓	✓	✓		
Company social media recognition. (Facebook/Instagram – times per year)	6	4	2		
Logo displayed in quarterly newsletter.	✓	✓			
Special acknowledgement at educational seminars.	✓	✓			
Opportunity to provide input and participate in educational seminar panel(s) .	✓				
Invitations to Sacramento Legislative Tour Sunday dinner .	2	1			
Invitation to attend one CCCA Executive Board Meeting .	✓				
Opportunity to present at CCCA's January City Managers Meeting .	✓				
Complimentary AMS exhibitor space (1) and two lunch tickets (valued at \$25 each).	✓				

2025 Associate Member Program Benefits Package

Associate Member Program (AMP) Benefits

1. **Access to CCCA monthly Board of Directors Meetings.** – Members are invited and encouraged to attend CCCA's monthly Board of Directors meeting held in various locations throughout L.A. County. As an enhancement to our membership, non-members are not allowed to attend CCCA events.
2. **Company link displayed in Associate Members directory on CCCA website.**
Company links. – Current Associate Members are listed on the CCCA website under the Associate Members section with a link to each organization's homepage. Associate Members at the Platinum and Gold levels also have their logos displayed on the CCCA website.
3. **Priority Selection for Annual Municipal Seminar booth location (deadlines for each tier will be set).** – Tiered Annual Municipal Seminar vendor booth selection with top priority given to Platinum Associate Members. Tiers will be published approximately 90 days prior to each year's seminar and will be limited to 32 total booths due to space restrictions.
4. **Sponsor recognition during educational seminars/events.** – Platinum and Gold level Associate Members will have their logos displayed on a rolling slide show during breaks CCCA's three conferences each year. Associate Members below the gold level will be listed and grouped by membership levels.
5. **Invitation to select CCCA City Managers/Administrators Committee meetings.** – Associate members at the Bronze level and above receive are invited to attend CCCA's monthly city managers meetings. (10 meetings per year.)
6. **Access to CCCA membership roster.** – Associate Members at the Bronze level and above will receive access to the CCCA membership roster. Roster includes listing of City elected officials, city managers, and key contacts within the CCCA membership.
7. **Access to CCCA conference registration lists.** – Associate Members at the Silver level and above will receive registration lists in advance of each major conference each year upon request.
8. **Complimentary registrations for Annual Municipal Seminar.** – Associate Members at the Platinum, Gold, and Silver levels each receive 4, 2, and 1 complimentary full registrations for CCCA's Annual Municipal Seminar each year.
9. **Participation in Associate Members Program Steering Committee.** – Associate members at the Silver level and above are invited to participate in monthly teleconferences with CCCA's executive director and other premium-level associate members to help shape the overall benefits of the Associate Member Program.
10. **Company social media recognition. (Facebook/Instagram – times per year)** – CCCA will publish content, mutually agreed upon by premium-level associate members and CCCA executive director, on CCCA's social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, etc.) as indicated for each level of sponsorship. Content shall not conflict with CCCA's core values and mission.

- 11. *Logo displayed in quarterly newsletter.*** – Associate Members at the Platinum and Gold levels will have their logos prominently displayed in each quarterly newsletter that links to their organization's homepage.
- 12. *Special acknowledgement at educational seminars.*** – Recognition of Associate Members contributions to Contract Cities at various educational seminars, including at the Annual Municipal Seminar and Welcome Reception.
- 13. *Opportunity to provide input and participate in educational seminar panel(s).*** – Platinum and Gold level membership gives Associate Members the opportunity to shape various session topics at Contract Cities' educational seminars, including participation on panel discussions as subject matter experts.
- 14. *Invitations to Sacramento Legislative Tour Sunday dinner.*** – Meet members of the CCCA Executive Board and Legislative Committee at our pre-conference dinner to learn about the Association's legislative priorities and help shape the discussion of critical issues impacting the Association.
- 15. *Invitation to attend one CCCA Executive Board Meeting.*** – Associate Members will be able to meet the CCCA Executive Board and share in the discussions impacting cities and how the Association can collaborate with their organization increase the benefit of the membership and the Association.
- 16. *Opportunity to present at CCCA's January City Mangers Meeting.*** – Come meet with an exclusive club of city officials who are leading city governments and them on your organization's work and how a collaborative partnership can lead to innovation in their communities.
- 17. *Complimentary AMS exhibitor space (1) and two lunch tickets (valued at \$25 each).*** – Platinum Level membership offers complimentary exhibitor booth at the Annual Municipal Seminar, along with two lunch tickets for exhibitors.



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



Complete and submit the following information to begin your membership in the Associate Members Program.

1 Organization representative (name & title):

Organization name:

Address: City:

State: Zipcode: Phone:

Email: Website:

2 Associate level:

Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Copper
\$17,500	\$12,000	\$6,500	\$4,000	\$2,500
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3 Payment method:

Credit card: ☐ Please send an invoice: ☐

4



TO: Honorable Chair and Members of the Governing Board

FROM: Juan Garza, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **Executive Director Report/Summary**

DATE: May 14, 2025

- 1) Upcoming 2025 Gaming Efforts:
 - a. Judicial (ongoing)
 - b. Legislative (monitoring)
 - c. Regulatory (AG Regs – Re-Released & Hearings May 28-29, 2025)
 - d. Public Initiative (ongoing)
- 2) Annual Form 700 Reporting Updates – LA County – June 2, 2025 Deadline