



City of Needles, California Request for City Council Action

CITY COUNCIL NPUA HACN

Regular Special

Meeting Date: May 12, 2026

Title: Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter of Opposition to Senate Bill 1414 (Reyes)

Background: The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors has formally opposed Senate Bill 1414 (SB 1414), authored by Senator Eloise Gomez Reyes. SB 1414 would impose a state-mandated redistricting structure on San Bernardino County and replace the County’s current voter-approved advisory redistricting commission established through Measure J in 2020.

The County’s existing redistricting process included extensive public outreach, multiple public meetings held throughout the County, livestreamed participation opportunities, and consideration of public-submitted maps. According to the County, the process exceeded the proposed public meeting requirements contained in SB 1414 and resulted in final district maps that have not been subject to legal challenge.

SB 1414 raises concerns related to local control, fiscal impacts, and governance. The bill would establish highly prescriptive and subjective requirements regarding commissioner qualifications, outreach, staffing, and funding obligations that may increase administrative complexity, legal exposure, and implementation costs. The County estimates the proposal could create an unfunded mandate exceeding \$2 million without guaranteed State reimbursement.

Additionally, the bill raises broader concerns regarding State intervention into locally adopted governance structures approved by San Bernardino County voters. The County and regional stakeholders have expressed concern that the legislation may create operational uncertainty and impact regional coordination efforts relied upon by local jurisdictions.

Given these concerns, staff recommends authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter opposing SB 1414.

Fiscal Impact: None. This action does not commit City funds.

Environmental Impact: None.

Recommendation: Authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of opposition to Senate Bill 1414 (Reyes).

Submitted By: Patrick Martinez, City Manager

City Manager Approval: Patrick J. Martinez

Date: 5/7/2026

Other Department Approval (when required): _____

Date: _____