



City of Needles

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City Manager Patrick Martinez

May 12, 2026

The Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N Street, Room 517
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1414 (Reyes) – County of San Bernardino Citizens Redistricting Commission – As Amended April 8, 2026 – OPPOSE

Dear Assemblymember Carrillo and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the City of Needles, we write in opposition to SB 1414.

SB 1414 imposes a state-mandated redistricting structure on San Bernardino County, replacing a voter-approved framework that has already demonstrated transparency, public engagement, and effective outcomes. Overriding this locally adopted system creates uncertainty for cities that rely on stable and predictable county governance and coordinated regional decision-making.

The bill raises significant local control concerns. SB 1414 limits San Bernardino County's ability to establish governance structures that reflect regional needs and voter intent, while introducing vague, subjective requirements for funding, outreach, and commissioner qualifications. These provisions increase the risk of disputes, administrative inefficiencies, and legal challenges, and set a troubling precedent for state intervention into local governance, particularly for charter counties and their partner cities. Disruptions or delays in the redistricting process can also affect coordination across jurisdictions that depend on clear and timely district boundaries.

Finally, SB 1414 would create significant fiscal pressures by establishing an unfunded mandate likely exceeding \$2 million, with no guarantee of state reimbursement. At a time when local governments are already facing budget constraints, these costs would further strain county resources and may impact regional services that cities depend on, including public safety coordination, infrastructure, and economic development.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your "NO" vote on SB 1414.

Sincerely,

Janet Jernigan
Mayor
City of Needles