



City of Riverside, California  
Office of the Mayor  
**PATRICIA LOCK DAWSON**



April 30, 2024

The Honorable Anna M. Caballero  
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 412  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1034 (Seyarto) - California Public Records Act: State of Emergency – SUPPORT**

Dear Chairwoman Caballero,

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express our support for SB 1034 (Seyarto) which provides government agencies an extension to fulfill a public record request during a state of emergency, when the emergency prevents gathering for health and safety reasons.

The California Public Records Act (CPRA) requires that government records be disclosed to the public, upon request, unless there are privacy and/or public safety exemptions which would prevent disclosure. In general, California law allows agencies 10 days from the receipt of a public record request to determine whether the record requested is disclosable and to provide notification of their determination to the requesting individual. Existing law also allows up to a 14-day extension under unusual circumstances which include the need to: 1) collect records from facilities separate from the office processing the request, 2) collect a voluminous amount of distinct and separate records in a single request, 3) consult another agency with substantial interest in the determination of the request, and 4) compile data or write programming language to construct a computer report.

SB 1034 would revise the unusual circumstances that allow up to a 14-day extension to include the need to search for, collect, appropriately examine, and copy records during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor that affects the agency's ability to timely respond to requests due to decreased staffing or closure of the agency's facilities. This revision will allow agencies to focus on keeping their communities safe in a state of emergency and prioritize urgent, life-threatening situations, instead of allocating resources to stay within the Records Act compliance.

For these reasons, the City of Riverside supports SB 1034. If you have questions regarding the City's position, please contact Chekesha Gilliam, Intergovernmental Relations Officer at (951) 826-2419 or [CGilliam@riversideca.gov](mailto:CGilliam@riversideca.gov).

Sincerely,

Patricia Lock Dawson  
Mayor, City of Riverside

cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Appropriations Committee  
The Honorable Kelly Seyarto  
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation