

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 370 (Carrillo): California Public Records Act: Cyberattacks
Orange County Sanitation District - Support

Dear Assembly Member Carrillo,

On behalf of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San), I write to express our strong support for your Assembly Bill (AB) 370. This important legislation extends the timeline for local jurisdictions to respond to a Public Records Act (PRA) request if they are actively experiencing a cyberattack.

AB 370 offers some flexibility for local agencies by broadening the definition of "unusual circumstances" to include situations where an agency is unable to access its electronic servers or systems due to a cyberattack, preventing it from searching for and retrieving electronically stored records that may be responsive to a request. The extension granted under these circumstances would remain in effect only until the agency regains full access to its electronic systems and is able to conduct the necessary search and record retrieval.

In recent years, local government agencies have experienced significant cyberattacks. During these incidents, ransomware compromised IT systems, leading to temporary service disruptions and prompting a coordinated response from cybersecurity experts and law enforcement. These events significantly impact operations and highlight the growing threat of cybercrime to local governments.

The extended timeline granted under AB 370 allows local officials to direct efforts toward restoring disrupted services. Cyberattacks place significant strain on an agency's IT infrastructure and staff, and this bill would allow agencies to focus on mitigating the attack and stabilizing their systems without the added pressure of meeting PRA response timelines, ultimately maintaining better overall operational integrity.

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For these reasons, OC San is proud to support AB 370. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, Director of Communications, at (714) 593-7581 or via email at JCabral@ocsan.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan Gallagher', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Gallagher
Board Chairman