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September 19, 2019

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 139 (Allen) – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I urge your veto of Senate Bill 139. SB 139 (Allen), would require each county with a population over 400,000 residents to establish an independent redistricting commission to re-draw the boundaries of county supervisorial districts.

As of this writing Placer County is below the population threshold of SB 139, however we expect to be over 400,000 in the coming years. Our primary concern is the cost to implement an expansive process for redrawing county supervisorial districts. The provisions of SB 139 constitute a clear mandate for which the state will be required to reimburse counties pursuant to the California Constitution. However, we are concerned that—as past experience has indicated—the state will avoid paying mandated costs by suspending the mandate, which leaves the statute apparently intact but actually optional. If that happens, either counties feel pressured to perform the activities without reimbursement, which is unfair, or they exercise the option not to perform them.

While we acknowledge and appreciate the importance of a fair redistricting process, SB 139 requirements are issues of statewide importance thus the state should be willing to pay the cost. If not, then it would be better to leave the statute as-is and allow each community to decide for itself whether it wishes to create a commission for the redistricting process.

For these reasons, Placer County respectfully requests your veto of SB 139. If you have any questions regarding our position, please contact Joel Joyce at (530) 889-4026 or at jjoyce@placer.ca.gov.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

Kirk Uhler, Chairman (District 4)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Placer County Board of Supervisors and Shaw / Yoder / Antwih