

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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March 8, 2023

The Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government
1020 N Street, Room 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 400 (Rubio) Local agency design-build projects: authorization - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in support of AB 400, which will permanently allow local governments to utilize existing state law which allows them to use the Design-Build (DB) procurement process for qualifying public works projects. This bill achieves this by eliminating the existing January 1, 2025, sunset date on the statutory DB authority.

Existing statute enacts more uniform provisions authorizing most local agencies, counties included, to use the DB procurement process for specified public works projects within Public Contract Codes Sections 22160-22169, which excludes roads but includes buildings, utility improvements associated with buildings, flood control, underground utility improvements, and bridges.

The DB method is an approach to delivering public works projects in which both the design and construction of a project are procured from a single entity. Under design-build, the owner contracts with a single entity to both design and construct a project at a fixed price. Simultaneously, contractors are provided with more flexibility over project design, materials and construction methods. This promotes project design and construction innovation, which can result in higher quality, as well as cost savings. The approach also reduces the county and local agencies risk and results in fewer litigation claims for all parties involved.

In the traditional Design-Bid-Build (DBB) method of construction procurement the design and contracting phases are sequential, with no direct collaboration process. Allowing alternative delivery methods for construction projects gives counties the ability to make the most cost-effective and advantageous decision for a particular project.

The DB method streamlines project delivery through a single contract between the owner and the design-build team. Thus, using the DB method for more complex projects facilitates the completion and delivery of public works construction projects efficiently and cost effectively. AB 400 would allow counties to continue using this authority indefinitely.

For these reasons, we strongly support your AB 400. If you need additional information about our position, please contact Joel Joyce, Legislative & Governmental Affairs Coordinator at (530) 889-4026 or at jjoyce@placer.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER



Jim Holmes, Chair
Placer County Board of Supervisors