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May 22, 2023

The Honorable Maria Elena Durazo
Chair, Senate Local Government Committee
State Capitol, Room 407
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1176 (Zbur), Local Electrification Planning Act – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Durazo,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors I am writing to express our serious concerns with AB 1176 (Zbur), which would require all cities and counties to either adopt a climate action electrification element as part of the general plan or otherwise amend the general plan to identify strategies, policies, and proposed ordinance amendments to meet California's greenhouse gas reduction goals by requiring increased electrification of transportation and buildings.

This bill is predicated on the false premise that local jurisdictions universally have energy reliability and will easily be able to add capacity to meet electrification requirements. Specifically, this measure requires the development of a location, zoning, or siting framework that considers and identifies, at a minimum, the density of the surrounding development and the types of transportation corridors that are required for the installation of EV charging stations in the public right-of-way, as well as identify necessary updates to relevant codes or regulations of the local agency.

While a few local governments are served by municipal electric providers (SMUD, LA DWP, Glendale, Burbank, etc.), most are served by investor-owned utilities. Mandating local governments to prepare electrification elements without having any control over the grid and system upgrades will set locals up for failure. Local governments do not control the means with which to deploy vehicle charging stations in our communities. We do not own or operate those stations, nor do we have the capacity to do so.

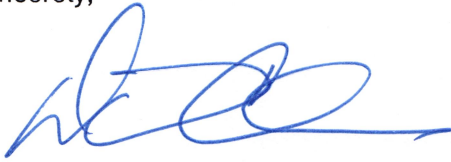
Understanding grid infrastructure requires technical and specialized expertise, skillsets local governments rarely have on staff. Access to the electrical data itself is limited due to Homeland Security concerns. Solar and wind companies, for example, spend millions of dollars to have highly trained specialists and consultants help them understand utility plans and navigate site-specific challenges. In addition to these hurdles, the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) process for managing the state's transmission grid and infrastructure planning requires payment of high fees and often has long wait times for establishing energy clusters and interconnection. The

notion that a city or county planning department could complete this type of technical work within the next five years is erroneous and fraught with insurmountable challenges.

Unfortunately, AB 1176 continues the trend by policymakers in Sacramento to legislate by means of unfunded mandate and to the detriment of local governments. This bill demonstrates the disconnect of an ill-devised state policy agenda that continues to rush the transition of the state's energy mix in a manner that will ultimately harm taxpayers, consumers, and the economic stability of California as a whole.

For these reasons, the Kern County Board of Supervisors opposes this bill and respectfully encourages you to vote **NO** on **AB 1176**.

Sincerely,



David Couch, Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Senate Local Government Committee
Honorable Members, Kern County Legislative Delegation
California State Association of Counties
Kern County Planning & Natural Resources
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange