

# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

## SUPERVISORS

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April 28, 2026

The Honorable Josh Hoover  
California State Assembly, 7<sup>th</sup> District  
1021 O Street, Suite 4540  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2445 (Hoover), State Capitol annex project and other public infrastructure projects – Support if amended**

Dear Assembly Member Hoover,

On behalf of the Kern County Board of Supervisors, thank you for your work on AB 2445 and for your ongoing efforts to promote transparency and accountability in state government. The Board appreciates the bill's focus on ensuring the public has clear insight into the costs and scope of the State Capitol Annex renovation, including the provisions related to the Capitol visitor center and the invalidation of nondisclosure agreements associated with the project.

However, the Board has concerns regarding AB 2445's expansion of nondisclosure restrictions beyond the State Capitol project. As currently drafted, the bill would prohibit the use of nondisclosure agreements for any public infrastructure project statewide beginning January 1, 2027. While Kern County supports transparency as a core principle of public service, a blanket statewide prohibition could create operational, contractual, and security challenges for local jurisdictions.

Certain public infrastructure projects such as jails, public safety facilities, and critical communications systems may legitimately require enhanced confidentiality to prevent the release of sensitive information that could compromise public safety or security. For these reasons, the Board believes the bill's broader application extends beyond the author's stated goal of enhancing transparency specifically for the Capitol Annex project.

To address these concerns while preserving the transparency objectives you intend for the Capitol renovation, the Kern County Board of Supervisors respectfully requests an amendment to narrow the bill's scope. Specifically, the Board would be pleased to support AB 2445 if amended to apply the nondisclosure restrictions exclusively to the State Capitol Annex project, rather than to all public infrastructure projects statewide.

We appreciate your attention to this request and welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively as the bill moves forward. Thank you again for your leadership and for your commitment to open and accountable government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phillip Peters", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phillip Peters, Chairman  
Kern County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members, Kern Legislative Delegation  
Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange