



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

September 28 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol, Governor's Office
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 970 (McCarty) –EV Charging Stations: Local Permit Approval
The City of Beverly Hills – REQUEST FOR VETO

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in **OPPOSITION** to **AB 970 (McCarty)** and to respectfully request you **VETO** this bill when it comes before your desk. While we appreciate the author's goal to increase the pace of installation for elective vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and we recognize the important need to expand the EV fuel network in our city and around the state, **AB 970** preempts local land use and permitting authority. Specifically, provisions in **AB 970** would deem an application as automatically approved, which can create significant public safety risk for unauthorized and poor-quality installation of EV charging stations.

Mindful of increased demand for electric vehicles and EV charging infrastructure in our own community, the City of Beverly Hills has worked diligently to ensure that EV charging stations are reviewed and permitted in an expedited and feasible manner. In 2017, the City of Beverly Hills amended its municipal code to establish an expedited, streamlined permitting process for EV charging stations. Through this process, the city proclaimed the creation of an expedited, streamlined permitting process would facilitate timely and cost-effective installation of such charging stations, and encourage the use of EVs to help reduce the City's reliance on environmentally damaging fossil fuels.

The City's current review and permitting process allows for licensed building officials to properly review and permit EV charging stations, ensuring proposals are reviewed based on unique the City's community characteristics and the plans are consistent with state and local building standards.

While the goals of **AB 970** are commendable, the expansion of the state's EV charging infrastructure needs to occur in a manner that does not sacrifice local control. The City of Beverly Hills shares the state goal to increase the number of EV chargers available; however, we believe we should work in a partnership with the state to achieve these goals and steer clear of new laws that would mandate what constitutes appropriate use of publicly accessible charging stations.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully **OPPOSE AB 970 (McCarty)** and request you **VETO** this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Wunderlich".

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor
City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Kevin McCarty, 7th Assembly District
The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator 26th District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, Assemblyman 50th District
Andrew Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange