



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

SantaBarbaraCA.gov

March 18, 2026

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Randy Rowse
Mayor

The Honorable John Laird
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

City Hall
735 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101-1990

**RE: SB 922 (Laird) – Vehicles: Local Agency Charges: Use of Streets or Highways
City of Santa Barbara – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Laird:

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA
93102-1990

On behalf of the City of Santa Barbara, we write to express our strong support for SB 922. This important measure provides necessary clarification of state law to preserve long-standing local authority to recover the costs of maintaining and repairing public streets and infrastructure used in the delivery of essential public services.

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SB 922 appropriately responds to uncertainty created by the recent decision in *Rogers v. City of Redlands*, which interpreted the California Vehicle Code in a manner that extends beyond the original intent of the statute. That statute was enacted in connection with state-imposed vehicle weight fees and was intended to prevent duplicative, weight-based charges at the local level. SB 922 restores this understanding by expressly limiting the prohibition to charges based on vehicle weight.

For the City of Santa Barbara, this clarification is critical. Like many coastal and tourism-driven communities, Santa Barbara experiences high volumes of service-related vehicle activity, including solid waste and recycling collection, utilities, construction activity, and other regulated services that depend on consistent use of public rights-of-way. These operations place significant and ongoing demands on local street infrastructure. Cost-recovery mechanisms tied to these services ensure that the impacts generated by vehicle-intensive operations are appropriately borne by those services rather than shifted onto residents or absorbed by the General Fund.

With aging infrastructure, rising construction costs, and increasing fiscal constraints, maintaining clear authority to recover service-related street maintenance and repair costs is essential to responsible municipal governance. Without this clarification, cities face uncertainty that could undermine infrastructure funding and limit our ability to maintain safe and reliable roadways.

SB 922 restores predictability and reaffirms the Legislature's original intent while preserving local control and sound fiscal management practices. For these reasons, the City of Santa Barbara supports SB 922 and thanks you for your leadership on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Mayor Randy Rowse
City of Santa Barbara

cc: Senate President Pro Tempore, Monique Limon
Assembly Member Gregg Hart