



June 6, 2025

The Honorable Scott Wiener
Senator, California State Senate
1021 O Street, Suite #8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 445 (Wiener) Transportation: planning: complete streets facilities: sustainable transportation projects
CONCERNS *(As Amended on 4/10/25)*

Dear Senator Wiener,

The local government associations listed above must express our shared **concerns** with your SB 445 (Wiener). As representatives of local publicly owned utilities and public agencies writ-large, we recognize the importance of critical transportation infrastructure, especially as the state seeks to decarbonize as quickly as possible to combat climate change. However, we are concerned that any proposal, such as the introduced version of SB 445, could have major implications for public safety and the reliable provision of electric, water, and sewer service.

As introduced, SB 445 would have required publicly owned providers of essential utility services to give proponents of sustainable transportation projects, input, comments, and permission related to the critical utility infrastructure impacted by the project within 30 days. There are numerous reasons why a 30-day timeline may not be feasible for critical utility infrastructure. More importantly, if this timeline cannot be met, the introduced version of SB 445 gives a project proponent permission to begin construction and alter this critical infrastructure regardless of worker safety and the broader impacts to the communities we serve.

Electric, water, and sewer infrastructure may serve thousands or even millions of people in a community or region. Altering that infrastructure, moving it, or impeding access to it as contemplated by the introduced version of SB 445 could disrupt service at a regional scale and, more importantly, pose significant safety risks for the community. There are numerous legitimate reasons why a 30-day timeline may be unworkable and it is impossible to find a "one-size-fits-all" timeline that could apply to any utility infrastructure regardless of size without entailing the risks discussed above.

We and our shared public agency members appreciate your intent. We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and work to address any specific concerns you have with third-party review of transportation projects. However, given the significant implications of getting this policy wrong, **we respectfully request that you make SB 445 a 2-year bill**. Doing so would afford much needed time for us to better understand your specific concerns and discuss how they could be addressed without threatening public safety and the provision of essential utility service.

Given these reasons, we must express our **concerns** with SB 445. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact CMUA at (916) 827-7113 or ddolfie@cmua.org.

Sincerely,



Derek Dolfie
Director of Energy
California Municipal Utilities Association
(CMUA)



Damon Conklin
Legislative Advocate
League of California Cities (Cal Cities)



Eric Will
Policy Advocate
Rural County Representatives of California
(RCRC)



Mark Neuburger
Legislative Advocate
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)