



**MAYOR &
CITY COUNCIL**

Judy Ritter
Mayor

John B. Franklin
Deputy Mayor

Joe Green
Councilmember

Corinna Contreras
Councilmember

Katie Melendez
Councilmember

CITY MANAGER

Patrick Johnson

May 26, 2022

The Honorable Philip Ting
State Capitol, Ste. 8230
Sacramento, CA 95814
assemblymember.ting@assembly.ca.gov

**RE: AB 2357 (Ting) Surplus land.
(As Amended April 5, 2022) – Notice of Opposition**

Dear Assembly Member Ting:

The City of Vista regrets that it must Oppose your AB 2357, which undermines the ability of local agencies to conduct appropriate economic development activities on properties they acquire or otherwise own, by expanding the scope of authority for Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review “any action to dispose of land,” which would include properties retained for agency use, properties declared “exempt surplus,” and properties that local agencies are authorized by other laws to acquire and dispose of for economic development purposes.

The implementation of the Surplus Lands Act (SLA), including HCD’s recent guidelines, have created immense delays and difficulties for local government agencies dealing with the control and disposal of their local properties. Regrettably, AB 2357 would compound those difficulties by expanding state reviews and delays affecting properties retained for agency use and declared exempt surplus.

Additional Reasons for Opposition: Are there recent examples of where HCD’s review under the SLA stalled a worthwhile project in your community?

Rather than expanding the scope of the SLA in this form, the Legislature should hold special hearings to more thoroughly and properly evaluate the difficulties, bureaucratic delays and unintended consequences caused by implementation of the existing law on local agency activities, including addressing unresolved conflicts with other laws and state policy priorities the Legislature has enacted that affect the disposal of local agency property.

For these reasons, the City of Vista regrets that it must respectfully Oppose AB 2357. For questions or to coordinate a further discussion, please contact Imelda M. Huerta, Assistant to the City Manager at (760) 643-5208 or ihuerta@cityofvista.com. Thank you for considering our request.

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Sincerely,



Judy Ritter
Mayor

cc: Senator Anna Caballero, Chair, Senate Committee on Governance and Finance, senator.caballero@senate.ca.gov
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