



May 5, 2026

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Chair, Assembly Local Government
1021 O Street, Room 5610
Sacramento, CA 95816

RE: SB 935 (Choi) – Local Agency Design-Build Projects – SUPPORT (As Introduced 1/29/2026)

Assemblymember Carrillo:

Associated Builders and Contractors of California (ABC CA) is a statewide organization representing working Californians in carpentry, construction, construction craft laborer, electrical, low voltage, painting, plumbing, pipefitting, and sheet metal who are building commercial, industrial and affordable housing projects, and we write to express our enthusiastic support of SB 935 (Choi). This measure repeals the sunset date for provisions allowing local agencies to use the design-build contracting method of procurement for public works projects over \$1,000,000.

The traditional form of contracting for public works, design-bid-build, separates the design and construction of a project. A public agency first produces detailed design plans for a project. This can be done with either internal or contracted design professionals. After plans are complete, the agency opens a new bidding process for the project's construction. The construction contract is then awarded to the lowest bidder.

The design, bidding, and construction phases are discrete steps that cannot begin until the previous is complete. Every detail of the plans must be finalized before they are put up for a bid. Contractors must familiarize themselves with the designs before they can put in a bid. A bid must be successful before a contractor can begin acquiring the materials and labor needed to complete the job. The repeated stalling inherent to the process reduces efficiency, increases costs, and inflates timelines.

Design-build streamlines bidding and allows a public agency to utilize a single bid process to procure both design and construction services from a single outside entity. The process also permits best-value bidding, allowing the agency to consider which bid offers the best value to the public, not just the lowest-cost.

By consolidating responsibility within a single entity, design-build improves coordination, reduces administrative burdens, and shortens project timelines. Contractors engaged early in the

design phase can better anticipate material needs, workforce requirements, and potential challenges, resulting in more efficient project execution.

California has successfully utilized design-build for over three decades, in which time it has been firmly established as an effective bidding method. Maintaining the sunset on this authority creates unnecessary uncertainty for local agencies. This is especially problematic for agencies that must plan projects years in advance and may rely on the certainty that a particular form of bidding will be available when it is time to bring a project to bid.

SB 935 ensures the continued availability of a proven and effective procurement method that enhances efficiency and supports timely project delivery.

For these reasons, we support SB 935.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gutierrez", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Greg Gutierrez
Chair of the Board