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May 26, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gatto
State Capitol, Room 2016
Sacramento, CA 95814

Bill: AB 2853
Position: Support if Amended

Dear Assembly Member Gatto:

At its May 19-20, 2016 meeting, the California Board of Accountancy (CBA) voted to take a support if amended position on Assembly Bill (AB) 2853.

AB 2853 would authorize a public agency that posts a public record on its Internet website to first refer a person that requests to inspect or obtain a copy of the public record to the public agency's Internet website where the public record is posted.

While this bill is in line with CBA's efforts to increase transparency and public access to information, the CBA suggests the following amendment to the April 13, 2016, version of the bill:

(f) ...However, if after the agency refers the person to the Internet Web site, the person requesting the record requests a copy of the record due to an inability to access or reproduce the public record from the Internet Web site, the agency shall, within 10 days, ~~prepare a copy of the public record pursuant to subdivision (b), and promptly notify the person of the availability of the public record~~ notify the person of the availability of the public record and make the record promptly available upon payment of fees pursuant to subdivision (b).."

This amendment is important to ensure timely notice of availability and making the records available following payment of fees.

For this reason, the CBA has taken a support if amended position on AB 2853.

Sincerely,

Katrina L. Salazar, CPA
President

c: Senate Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee
Members, California Board of Accountancy
Patti Bowers, Executive Officer