



## CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Ray Gennawey  
Mayor Pro Tem Gene Johns  
Council Member Kelly Jennings  
Council Member Stephanie Oddo  
Council Member Stephanie Winstead

March 11, 2025

The Honorable Avelino Valencia  
California State Assembly  
1021 O Street, Room 5510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 492 (Valencia) Alcohol and drug programs: licensing.**  
**Notice of SUPPORT (As Introduced 02/10/2025)**

Dear Assembly Member Valencia,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support **AB 492 (Valencia)**, which would require the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to notify cities anytime a new alcohol and drug treatment facility is approved in their jurisdiction.

California has 2,043 alcohol and drug treatment facilities, nearly 70% of which are in Southern California. DHCS is not currently required to notify local governments when approving licenses, leaving cities in the dark about the operation of new facilities within their jurisdictions. This lack of communication can make it challenging to address community concerns, maintain public safety, and ensure that recovery and treatment programs are effectively integrated into local communities.

AB 492 would enable cities to better coordinate services and identify emerging trends and potential gaps in the state's approach to treatment needs. Similar notification requirements are already in place for liquor licenses, cannabis businesses, and syringe exchange programs. By having this requirement in place, cities can assist the DHCS by proactively identifying concerns at newly licensed treatment facilities.

A recent state audit on drug and alcohol treatment facilities in California confirmed what cities across California have been saying for years: There is an overconcentration of recovery housing in residential neighborhoods, specifically in Orange County. AB 492 takes a critical step forward by keeping cities informed and enhancing their collaboration with the state to more effectively address substance use treatment needs.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support **AB 492 (Valencia)**. Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at [kocConnor@cityoflaguneniguel.org](mailto:kocConnor@cityoflaguneniguel.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ray Gennawey".  
Ray Gennawey  
Mayor

Cc: Assembly Committee on Health  
Assembly Member Laurie Davies, 74th Assembly District  
Laguna Niguel City Council