

**ROBERT BONTA**  
**Attorney General**

**State of California**  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



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November 15, 2021

***Via E-mail to:***

Craig P. Alexander, Esq.  
Law Offices of Craig P. Alexander  
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[Craig@craigalexanderlaw.com](mailto:Craig@craigalexanderlaw.com)

RE: Public Records Act Request; DOJ PRA 2021-02469

Dear Mr. Alexander:

This letter is in response to your correspondence of November 1, 2021, which was received on November 4, 2021, in which you requested records under the Public Records Act which is contained in Government Code section 6250 et seq.

Specifically, you requested: *"ALL DOCUMENTS REGARDING A CERTAIN LETTER FROM THE CALIFORNIA SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ("CSBA") TO GOVERNOR NEWSOM THAT ARE IN THE POSSESSION, CUSTODY AND CONTROL OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE BETWEEN JANUARY 1, 2021 TO THE DATE OF THIS LETTER*

*Pursuant to the California Public Records Act, Govt. Code §§ 6250-6276.48, CPC ("Requestor") respectfully requests to inspect all public records in the possession or control of the Attorney General's Office by and between the following:*

- 1. The Office of the Governor and/or Governor Newsom ("Governor" or "Office of the Governor"), which includes Governor Newsom and each member of his office and staff and the CSBA (a copy of that letter is enclosed for your reference - dated approximately September 2021) including communications about the letter even prior to CSBA sending the enclosed to the Governor; and*
- 2. The CSBA and the Office of the Attorney General and/or Attorney General Bonta regarding the same enclosed letter.*

*Again the time frame for this Request is from January 1, 2021 and the date of this letter (November 1, 2021) which, of course, includes any communications between the Office of the Attorney General and/or the Office of the Governor and CSBA prior to this letter.*

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*This Request includes any and all writings and communications (including but not limited to, letters, electronic communications, e-mails, text messages, notes, memorandums, messages) whether or not those communications are stored in the Office of the Attorney General's files and/or servers, state issued cellular telephones or on personal devices / accounts such as private electronic mail accounts or cellular telephones. City of San Jose v. Superior Court (Smith) (2017) 2 Cal. 5th 608.*

*In addition, on May 28, 2020 the California Supreme Court ruled that an agency may not charge a requestor of responsive documents for the act of searching for those documents or for review and redaction of any portion of a responsive document where the agency is claiming it is subject to an exemption or privilege. National Lawyers Guild v. City of Hayward, et al (2020) 9 Cal. 5th 488..."*

Absent a request for representation, DOJ responds solely on its own behalf and not on behalf of other agencies. We have searched our records and legal indices and found no records responsive to your request. You appear to be seeking records that are not in the control or custody of the California DOJ. We have no obligation or ability to provide public records that are not in our custody. (Gov. Code, § 6253(c).)

Please note that the DOJ is not the depository for records for the entire State of California. The scope of our records related to individual citizens is limited to matters that fall within our Department's purview. If you wish to review records that are in the custody or control of another state or local agency, you should direct your request to that agency. We would suggest contacting the local law enforcement agencies and/or the Governor's Office at <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>.

We hope the information we have provided is of assistance.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Public Records Coordinator*

Public Records Coordinator

For ROBERT BONTA  
Attorney General