

***Adopt Revised Policy
Regarding Brown Act
Remote Meetings
Exceptions for Board,
Committee, and
Advisory Committee
Meetings***

**JPB Board Meeting
February 5, 2026**



Recommended Action

- Staff recommends that the Board:
 - Adopt the Revised Remote Meetings Policy, which has been updated to reflect amendments to the Brown Act pursuant to Senate Bill No. 707 (SB 707)
 - Make findings that allow the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and Bicycle and Active Transportation Advisory Committee (BATAC) to meet remotely without limitation until August 2026

SB 707 Amendments to Brown Act

- Allows members to participate in meetings remotely without noticing their location or providing public access during a declared state of emergency or local emergency
- Expands the definition of just cause to allow members to participate remotely in meetings for a limited number of meetings per year without noticing their location or providing public access
- Adds a remote meetings exceptions for certain “multijurisdictional bodies” and “subsidiary bodies” (such as CAC and BATAC)
- Clarifies when a legislative body may permissibly remove disruptive individuals from meetings to allow the meeting to continue
- Permits members of a legislative body to participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation for a disability

Eligible Multijurisdictional Body Exception

- Members of the Board/Committees can meet remotely without complying with traditional Brown Act teleconferencing requirements if the Board adopts a resolution in open session that permits the members to participate remotely if at least a quorum of members participate from one or more physical locations open to the public within the boundaries of the local agency
- The remote meeting location must be at least 20 miles from any physical meeting location, and the agenda must identify all members who participate remotely
- Members may not rely on this exception for more than two meetings per year

Teleconferencing for Subsidiary Bodies (Gov't Code § 54953.8)

SB 707 permits certain subsidiary bodies to meet via teleconferencing if:

- The Board passes a resolution finding:
 - Remote meetings promote public access and recruitment, retention, and diversity of subsidiary body members
 - Public was afforded opportunity to comment on the proposed resolution at regular Board meeting
 - Board must renew resolution every 6 months
- The subsidiary body does not have primary subject matter jurisdiction over: elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, removal or access to materials in public libraries, or taxes or related spending proposals.

Teleconferencing for Subsidiary Bodies (Gov't Code § 54953.8) (cont'd)

If the resolution is passed, members generally can meet remotely without limitation for six months under the following circumstances:

- The eligible body designates one physical meeting location within jurisdiction where a staff member is present, and the members of the public may participate in person
- No quorum in physical location requirement
- Elected officials on subsidiary body must still notice their location and make it accessible to public and must appear on video and audio

Proposed JPB Remote Meeting Policy

- Members may participate in Board or Committee meetings:
 - in person
 - remotely provided location is identified on agenda and is accessible to the public; or
 - remotely under SB 707 exceptions for just cause, multijurisdictional bodies, or subsidiary bodies
- Members of the public will have the opportunity to participate in Board and Committee meetings in person, or via a two-way audiovisual platform, or a two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting

Proposed JPB Remote Meeting Policy

- Remote meeting participation may also serve as a reasonable accommodation for a member with a qualifying disability:
 - Must be connected in real time through both audio and visual means
 - Must disclose the identities of any adults present with them at the remote location
 - Counts as meeting in-person for the purposes of the Brown Act

Proposed JPB Remote Meeting Policy

- Board Secretary or Staff Liaison will alert the Board or Committee Chair and members if it appears that a quorum of members will not be physically present at the meeting; the Board or Committee may cancel the meeting if there will be no quorum
- Upon notice of remote participation for just cause, the Board Secretary must post a revised agenda if there is sufficient time to do so given the nature and timing of the just cause request
- Meeting minutes must reflect specific subsection member(s) relied upon in invoking just cause
- Agenda must reflect which members are planning to meet remotely pursuant to the multi-jurisdictional body exception in advance of the meeting

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