

LAFCO MEMORANDUM

SANTA BARBARA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
105 East Anapamu Street • Santa Barbara CA 93101 • (805) 568-3391 + Fax (805) 568-2249

February 1, 2024 (Agenda)

TO: Each Member of the Commission

FROM: Mike Prater
Executive Officer

SUBJECT: **Report on the 2024 CALAFCO Legislative Committee Meetings –January 12, 2024**

This is an Informational Report. No Action is Necessary

DISCUSSION

The CALAFCO Legislative Committee convened a meeting on January 12, 2024. Your Executive Officer participated in the meeting by ZOOM. A copy of the Meeting Agendas is attached as **Attachment A**.

Nearing a dozen bills are being tracked by the committee. In the CALAFCO packet is a good refresher on the two-year legislative cycle process. These bills are progressing through the early part of legislative process. Staff will verbally update the Commission on the status of current bills at the meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A – CALAFCO Legislative Committee Agenda- January 12, 2024

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.



CALAFCO Legislative Committee MEETING AGENDA

**Friday, January 12, 2024 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual via Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87543494293>

Meeting ID: 875 4349 4293

Phone: 669-900-6833

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1. Convene and Roll Call	<i>R. LaRoche</i>	
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8. Items for next meeting		
9. Good of the Order		
10. Adjournment to February 16, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. – to be held virtually		

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CALAFCO Legislative Committee
DRAFT ACTION MEETING MINUTES

Date:	November 3, 2023
Location:	Held virtually
Present:	
BOARD MEMBERS:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONNELLY , Bill (N)	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant (S)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> JONES , Gay (A/L)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McGILL , Michael (Co)
<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant (S, Alt)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOHLER , Margie (A/L, Alt)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PAQUE , Anita (Ce)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacant (Ce, Alt)
	<input type="checkbox"/> ROOT ASKEW , Wendy (Co, Alt)
	<input type="checkbox"/> SUSMAN , Josh (N, Alt)
STAFF APPOINTMENTS:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALSOP , Clark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LUCAS , Steve (No, Butte)
<input type="checkbox"/> BELL , Gary	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LaROCHE , René
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BRAMFITT , Mark (Co, Sonoma)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LUOMA , Kai (Co, Ventura)
<input type="checkbox"/> BROWNE , Scott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LYTLE-PINHEY , Sara (Ce, Stan.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> de SOUSA , Paula	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> McINTYRE , Michelle (Ce, Placer)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GRAF , Paula (So, Imperial)	<input type="checkbox"/> MUMPOWER , Priscilla (So, Alt, S.D.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ROMO , Adriana (So, L.A.)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SANTSCHÉ , Colette (No, Humboldt)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SERRANO , Joe (Co Alt, Santa Cruz)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPAUNHURST , Brian (Ce Alt, Fresno)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STEPHENSON , Jennifer (No, Plumas)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE:	
<input type="checkbox"/> CRAIG , Crystal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LEROMNIMON , Carolanne
<input type="checkbox"/> FITZROY , Rob	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SANCHEZ , Erica
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIGHTOWER , J.D	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TAPIA , Luis
	<input type="checkbox"/> BRAVO , Tara
	<input type="checkbox"/> FENDER , Brandon
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIMON , Jim
GUESTS:	Jonathan Brinkmann (Monterey), Amanda Castro (Orange), Dawn Mittleman-Longoria (Napa), Mike Prater (Santa Barbara), and Gary Thompson (Riverside)
RECORDER:	René LaRoche

1. Welcome, Roll Call

9:04 AM: The meeting was called to order by René LaRoche. Roll was taken and a quorum was established. René LaRoche, Chair, introduced and welcomed the new committee staff members.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the August 25, 2023 meeting

The minutes were unanimously approved as presented upon motion of Mike McGill, with a second by Gay Jones.

3. Consider Ad Hoc Committee Policy Revisions for Recommendation to the Board of Directors

Ad Hoc committee members René LaRoche and Bill Connelly gave the staff report. A brief question and answer period ensued regarding the EO input, the number of voting members that would be needed to hold a meeting, and Associate members on the committee. Under motion of Gay Jones,

with a second by Margie Mohler, the policy was unanimously approved as presented to move forward in the process.

4. Receive and File the 2023 Final Report

René LaRoche gave the staff report and elaborated on the amount of effort that went into AB 399.

5. Omnibus Bill Update

Joe Serrano gave the staff report noting that the Assembly Local Government Committee Consultant has indicated that proposals number 3 and 5 are too substantive to be considered Omnibus material. Mr. Serrano noted that the Tracking Log will be updated to reflect that going forward. René LaRoche elaborated on the Omnibus process, noting that the proposers are also normally contacted by the Consultant to discuss the issues.

6. Legislation affecting LAFCos

Chair LaRoche gave the report noting that five bills continue to be tracked, but that everything is in stasis until after the first of the year since the Legislature is now in recess.

7. Consider and Approve the 2024 Legislative Policies

LaRoche gave the report. Under a motion by Mike McGill, which was seconded by Bill Connelly, the policies were unanimously approved as presented.

8. Adopt the 2024 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

LaRoche gave the report and brief discussion ensued. Under a motion by Margie Mohler, with a second by Mike McGill, the schedule was unanimously approved, with the meeting start times changed to 9:00 a.m., rather than 10:00 a.m..

9. Receive list of CALAFCO tracked bills

LaRoche gave the staff report.

10. Good of the Order

Upon motion by Anita Paque, with a second by Margie Mohler, the cancellation of the December 8, 2023, meeting was unanimously approved due to a lack of business.

11. Items for Next Meeting

No new items were suggested.

12. Adjournment to January 12, 2024, meeting at 9:00 a.m. – to be held virtually

10:05 AM: René LaRoche adjourned the meeting, noting the January meeting date and time.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE TRAINING

Meeting Date: January 12, 2024

Prepared By: René LaRoche

RECOMMENDATIONS

Receive Overview and Training for Legislative Committee

BACKGROUND

As the legislative committee heads into the new year, it is starting with new Board members and LAFCO staff. Consequently, it is appropriate to offer a refresher training regarding its guidelines and processes.

DISCUSSION

The Legislative Committee is advisory to the CALAFCO Board of Directors. Its primary function is the development of CALAFCO's legislative agenda, which it does through consideration of bills, bill proposals, and policies. Members are also often called on to assist with specific issues, where needed – including providing expert testimony before a Senate or Assembly policy hearing.

CALAFCO Board members, LAFCO staff, and Associate members, are appointed to the committee upon the recommendation of the Executive Director, who is the Ex-Officio Legislative Committee Chair. All terms are for one year, but members may serve subsequent terms.

Committee members are required to:

- Be familiar with CALAFCO legislative guidelines (Attachment A) and legislative policies (Attachment B).
- Attend all committee meetings. (Calendar of Events is included as Attachment C).
 - If a Board member cannot attend, they must ensure that their alternate is available to fill in. (It is strongly urged that alternates also attend all meetings given that they may be asked to weigh in on issues that have been discussed across many months.)
- Thoroughly review each Committee meeting packet and accompanying staff recommendations prior to all meetings.
- Vote on legislative positions based on the impact to CALAFCO or LAFCOs collectively.
- Assist with responses to "Calls for Action".

Committee membership, quorum, and other matters are governed by CALAFCO Policy 4.5, which is found as (Attachment D) and the guidelines and policies noted above.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

State Legislature holds two-year legislative cycles. Bills proposed but not approved in the first year, can be held over to the second year. However, when the second year is over, any standing bills that have not been approved become null and, if they are to be pursued, must start the process anew in the next legislative cycle (year 3.)

Regardless of whether a bill is introduced in the Senate or the Assembly, it must adhere that two-year legislative cycle. During that time, bills go through an extensive and often rapid process of development, introduction, policy hearings and refinement, and adoption/implementation.

As the 2011 graphic “Legislative Process from the CALAFCO Perspective” shows (Attachment E), the process appears fairly straightforward at the high level. However, each of those sections is subject to specific deadlines (Attachment F), and nuances, rule waivers and, of course, politics can make the process extremely volatile. Ideally, the committee is considering these factors in its decision-making.

BILL DEVELOPMENT - LEGISLATIVE

Bills are developed either by legislative staff in response to a pressing problem, or at the suggestion of constituents or other outside sources who perceive a problem. This becomes an important consideration for CALAFCO as a Legislator’s “slate” of bill ideas fills up quickly. In fact, in a December 27, 2023, article in the Redland Daily Facts, new Senator Catherine Blakespear noted she is starting her second year on the job with a spreadsheet containing over 100 ideas for new bills. (The who and why an item is being sponsored also factors greatly into the ability of any other group or individual to influence a change.)

Once proposed bill language is developed, it must be submitted to Legislative Counsel for review ahead of the deadline. Failure to meet the deadline, generally pushes the effort to the next year. However, the possibility of a gut and amend arises later. At this point, Legislative Counsel is at liberty to modify the bill as they see fit, and the final bill may bear only a minor difference to the original.

If the bill has an author (the legislator willing to shepherd it through the process), it emerges from Legislative Counsel with a bill number and the author’s name, and goes into print. The prefix to the bill number (either SB or AB) indicates whether it is a Senate Bill or an Assembly Bill. If the bill does not have an author, it will sit in limbo unless a legislator choose to become its author.

From there, the bill progresses through a series of public hearings designed to gather feedback. Generally speaking, author’s seek consensus and try to make a bill acceptable to all stakeholders. Because of that, bills can end up being drastically different than what was originally proposed.

Once a bill passes the originating house, it must repeat the process in the other house. If it is ultimately passed by both houses, it will finally make its way to the Governor who has the option to veto or sign the bill.

BILL DEVELOPMENT - CALAFCO

For CALAFCO, generating a bill is a straightforward process. A Call for Proposals goes out to all of the member LAFCOs in late spring. The accumulated proposals come before the committee (the July meeting is the target), and the committee considers each proposal.

Proposals that meet the Assembly Local Government Committee's (ALGC) criteria as being non-controversial (meaning that no other stakeholder will be in opposition to it) get submitted to the ALGC to become an Omnibus bill. Proposals that are more complex may be approved for Board consideration as a Stand-Alone bill. Since Stand-Alone bills require a large amount of resources (staff time, lobbyist expenses, etc.), only the Board can make the final determination of whether a Stand-Alone bill is to be pursued. In the end, this most likely will come down to a cost vs. benefit analysis that includes consideration of timing, politics, etc. to determine probable outcome and whether the potential cost of the effort will be worth the expected outcome.

COMMITTEE PROCESS

The committee process is fairly straight-forward.

1. The Executive Director/Leg Committee Chair reviews new bills, and amendments to existing bills daily. During the busy part of the cycle, this list tends to number between 500 and 1000 per days.
2. Bills potentially affecting LAFCO interests are tagged for presentation to the committee. On occasion, the ED/Leg Chair will outreach to the author for additional details or to begin conversations or to obtain a Fact Sheet.
3. The ED/Leg Chair marks the bill for tracking within Capitol Track, our tracking system, and assigns a tentative priority.
4. The committee considers the bills and the recommendation of the ED/Leg Chair and affirms or changes the priority and position.
5. The Committee will strive towards consensus on all decisions. Should a consensus not be possible, decisions will be made by a majority vote.
6. In cases where legislative policy is unclear, there is significant disagreement among committee members, a financial commitment is required, or at the request of any of the participating Board members, the Committee shall send an item to the full Board for consideration.
7. In time sensitive situations, the ED/Leg Chair may also take a position on behalf of the organization based on approved legislative policies. In such an instance, the bill will come to the committee at its next meeting to consider the action and ratify or change, as necessary.
8. All committee recommendations are presented to the CALAFCO Board of Directors at their next scheduled meeting.

PRIORITY LEVELS

In considering bills, it is generally a good practice to try to identify the reason for the bill. That can play into the amount of resources needed for the effort which will, in turn, play into the priority to assign. Other issues that might also be assessed by the committee, especially when sponsoring a bill, are timing and politics as bad timing or political headwinds can also make an effort labor intensive with little guarantee of success.

- **Priority 1 – Highest level and greatest resources needed**

- Bills with major importance and a direct, significant impact on CALAFCO or its members statewide; or
- Which sets a policy precedent that would impact the mission and effectiveness of LAFCOs statewide.

These bills receive extensive attention and comprehensive advocacy by the Executive Director, Committee, and potentially a paid lobbyist. Such advocacy may include letters of position, testimony in policy committees, direct communications with legislators, and grassroots mobilization of members and any combination of effort. This level requires the highest commitment of funds and staff time.

- **Priority 2 –**

- Bills with a direct impact, or of interest to CALAFCO or its members.
- Bills that may set a policy precedent or have an impact to the LAFCO mission.
- Bills with a major importance to a member or group of members or constituents.

These bills receive position letters and testimony to policy committees, as time permits, or upon request of the author of sponsor.

- **Priority 3 – Minimal resource commitment**

- Bills of interest to CALAFCO or members, and which may have a substantive effect but are deemed to be of a lower priority as to time and effort resources for advocacy.

If requested by a CALAFCO member or stakeholder and approved by the Committee, CALAFCO will send a position letter, but will not testify unless unusual circumstances arise and if time allows, so as to not conflict with other higher priorities.

TYPES OF LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

- **Support**

Generally, a position given to bills and propositions that have a benefit for LAFCOs.

- **Oppose**

A position given to bills that would be detrimental to LAFCOs or their mission.

- **Support if Amended**

A position given to bills that would be acceptable with specific amendments. If this position is taken, it comes with the responsibility of providing the amended language.

- **Oppose Unless Amended**

A position given to bills that are viewed as detrimental to LAFCOs or their mission but which would be acceptable with specific amendments. As with Support if Amended, taking this position comes with the responsibility of providing the language that would make the bill acceptable.

- **Support in Concept**

A position given to bills that could benefit LAFCOs but which do not lend themselves to a support position because of political, policy, or other considerations.

- **Concerns**

A position given to bills that could be detrimental to LAFCOs but which do not lend themselves to an oppose position because of political, policy, or other considerations.

- **Neutral**
A position given to bills that have been amended in ways that address CALAFCO's support, opposition, or concerns.
- **Watch**
A position given to bills that address laws affecting LAFCOs and which have the potential to affect LAFCOs (e.g., the Brown Act); bills that are in spot bill form in a subject area of concern for LAFCOs, and other bills of interest.
- **Sponsor**
A position given to bills that have major importance for all or nearly all LAFCOs and which require the expenditure of CALAFCO resources to obtain, including drafting the proposal, preparing background materials, securing a legislator as author, lobbying, grassroots efforts, and other outreach needed.

Attachments:

- 4. A – CALAFCO Legislative Guidelines
- 4. B – CALAFCO Legislative Policies
- 4. C – CALAFCO 2024 Calendar of Events
- 4. D – CALAFCO Policy 4.5
- 4. E – Legislative Process from the CALAFCO Perspective
- 4. F – 2024 California State Legislature Deadlines

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California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

TITLE: Legislative Committee Guidelines: Adopting Positions on Legislation and Propositions

GUIDELINE NUMBER: 2014-001

LAST UPDATED: October 22, 2022

SECTION I. The California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO) represents the interests of the 58 Commissions statewide which implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and other laws within the State of California. Consistent with CALAFCO Policy 4.5, or other direction, the CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Committee), as appointed by the CALAFCO Board of Directors (Board), and in accordance with policy direction of the Board, plays a key role in reviewing proposed legislation, developing priorities and positions on legislation introduced in the State Legislature, making recommendations on legislation and/or statewide propositions, and/or reviewing and commenting on regulations issued by state or other agencies.

SECTION II. Purpose:

Within the parameters of the most recently adopted Board legislative policies and priorities, the Committee is charged with reviewing legislation and proposed legislation during the legislative session and considering proposals for new legislation where it appears needed to carry out the direction of LAFCo as enacted in the Government Code and other statutes. The Committee meets regularly to consider legislation, make legislative proposals, and take positions where deemed appropriate. When considered important, positions may be taken on legislation and/or statewide propositions, and comments may be provided to legislators or stakeholders to explain the position taken by CALAFCO. Testimony in writing or in person may be presented on behalf of CALAFCO by the staff or representatives of the Association as needed. The purpose of these Guidelines is to provide a framework for **the Committee's review of proposed legislation**, propositions and/or regulations, as well as for adopting positions on such proposals. At the beginning of each legislative session, the Committee shall review these Guidelines and amend as necessary.

SECTION III. Process:

Newly introduced or identified legislation is to be reviewed by the CALAFCO Executive Director (Committee Chair) or designee, as it is introduced or brought to his or her attention.

Anyone who wishes to submit legislative proposals shall use the CALAFCO Legislative Proposal Request Form and the process identified by the Executive Director. Any proposal presented to the Committee for inclusion in the Assembly Local Government Committee annual Omnibus bill must have unanimous support of the Committee to be included. **A vote cast as "abstain" is not counted towards the vote tally (it is not counted as a "yes" vote or a "no" vote). Bills that are of interest to CALAFCO in accordance with the Board's adopted Legislative Policies will be presented to the Committee for review and possible action/recommendation to the Board.** Committee

members and CALAFCO members are encouraged to bring **to the Committee's attention** additional bills they believe to be relevant to **CALAFCO's Legislative Policies**.

The steps in acting on proposed legislative bills or issues are generally outlined as follows:

1. The Executive Director reviews legislation daily and flags bills relevant to CALAFCO or member LAFCos. At the time they are added to the tracking log, these bills are assigned a preliminary priority and position (usually of Watch) until the Committee has an opportunity to meet and discuss the item.
2. The Executive Director notifies the Committee of a bill or issue and provides a copy and any background information. If a bill or issue warrants a timely response from the Committee, input by email may be requested.
3. The Committee will consider the bill or issue, will either confirm the priority assigned or change it as it deems appropriate, and consider its position on the item as outlined in these Guidelines. All Committee decisions are determined by a majority of members participating in review of the bill or issue as long as a quorum of Board members serving on the Committee participates in the decision process. If a majority of Committee members participating cannot agree on a position, the issue shall be forwarded to the Board for its consideration and action. The Executive Director may poll the Committee by email or present the issue to the Board if a meeting of the Committee is not possible within the applicable timeframe and the issue is deemed important, or upon request of a Committee member or legislator or important party, such as the bill sponsor.
4. In time sensitive situations or in the absence of a timely meeting by the Committee or Board, the Executive Director may take a position or change a previously taken position on a bill. The Committee and Board shall be informed of such an action as soon as practically possible to ensure that the Committee and Board have up to date information on CALAFCO legislative positions. Such decisions should be made only when deemed necessary due to urgent issues or circumstances and when insufficient time exists to obtain formal consideration and a vote of the Committee and/or Board.
5. Positions on legislation and priorities may change throughout the legislative year or when amendments or policy positions are changed by sponsors or stakeholders. The Committee will be updated on the status of bills, usually by discussion at the next scheduled Committee meeting, by email or on the CALAFCO website, and may change a position on a bill if the circumstances or priority warrant such an action.
6. For controversial bills, (such as bills objected to by a majority of Committee members from at least one Region of the Association or bills for which the vote on a position was split) the issue shall be presented to the Board for direction and/or final decision.
7. CALAFCO may sponsor a bill when an issue or proposal is of priority or direct concern to CALAFCO and a change in the law is desired by CALAFCO. Sponsoring a bill requires substantial resources of time and involvement of CALAFCO staff and members. The process involves close interaction with a legislator and staff of legislative committees. Board approval is required for CALAFCO to sponsor a bill.

SECTION IV. Propositions:

If a proposed statewide proposition is identified, and is of interest to CALAFCO members, the Executive Director shall present it to the Committee for review and determination of a position, if deemed appropriate. CALAFCO will generally not take a position on a proposition unless it will have a direct impact on the mission and purpose of CALAFCO or its member LAFCos.

The Committee shall forward a recommendation of a position taken on any proposition to the Board, which shall review and make the final decision on taking a position on a proposition, taking into consideration the recommendation of the Committee.

SECTION V. Formal Positions on Legislation:

The Committee shall identify and review the issues presented by a proposed bill and consider taking a formal position as deemed appropriate. The positions and resource priority categories are:

Position	Category Description
Sponsor	A position given to bills for which CALAFCO is the sponsor or Co-Sponsor. Inherent in this position is CALAFCO's support of the bill . CALAFCO sponsored bills are deemed the highest priority and given the highest level of resources.
Support	A position given to bills or propositions that the Committee believes are consistent with or would further CALAFCO policy positions or implementation of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act; benefits the membership of CALAFCO, and/or reflects good governance principles as public policy.
Neutral	A position given to bills that have no direct impact upon CALAFCO members or have been sufficiently amended to remove CALAFCO's support or opposition and warrant no other position as a result of those amendments. .
Watch	A position given to bills of interest to CALAFCO or its members that have no direct impact upon CALAFCO members or that do have an impact but do not warrant a position at that time given amendments are likely pending. , May include two-year bills where the author has indicated the bill will be amended or the subject area may change to not impact CALAFCO or its members (also known as gut and amend bills). These bills will be tracked but do not warrant taking a position at that time.
Watch with concerns	A position given to bills of interest to CALAFCO or its members that have a direct impact to CALAFCO or its members and for which CALAFCO has concerns. This position usually requires a letter to the author stating our concerns with suggestions for mitigating the concerns.
Placeholder – Spot bill	A position given to a bill identified as a spot bill.
Oppose	A position given to bills or propositions the Committee believes are detrimental to the policy positions of CALAFCO or its members or to good governance principles as public policy. This position is taken when the Committee has deemed that no amount of amendments would change the position and no negotiations are intended to be undertaken.
Support If Amended	A position given to bills for which a support or oppose position could be taken if amendments were made to address identified concerns of the Committee and/or Board. This may include changing a previously stated CALAFCO position. These

As approved and adopted by the CALAFCO Legislative Committee on 01/24/14, revised on 01/23/15, 06/19/15, 12/14/18, 11/15/19 and 10/22/21.

Position	Category Description
or Oppose Unless Amended	positions can be changed by the Executive Director if identified amendments have been accepted and are either "pending" (e.g., the author has accepted or the Executive Director has seen legislative counsel mock-up) or are in print. Timeliness is usually important in responding to requests on these types of bills.
Oppose pending amendments	A position given to bills when amendments that are opposed by CALAFCO are forthcoming that are not yet in print. This includes bills with pending amendments that may be heard in committee without being in print. Timeliness is usually a factor in taking this position.
None at this time	A position given to bills that either are of interest to or have an impact on CALAFCO or its members for which no adopted position is possible and for which there is a clear lack of consensus among the membership on the appropriate position. This may include situations in which a substantive number of member LAFcos have divergent positions or policy issues of concern with proposed legislation and no final consensus position is possible.

SECTION VI. Establishing Resource Priorities on Bills or Propositions

The time and resources of CALAFCO are limited. In other words, as a nonprofit association, CALAFCO can expend or allocate only a limited amount of effort and budget to legislative activities and **CALAFCO employs only 1.4 FTE** staff. Therefore, resource priorities may be assigned on legislative issues or bills to guide the activities of CALAFCO staff, Committee and Board. Member representatives may be called upon to write letters or testify on bills as determined beneficial by the Executive Director, Committee or Board.

Resource Priority Level	Level Description
Priority 1	Bills have major importance and a direct, significant impact on CALAFCO or its members statewide, or set a policy precedent that impacts the mission and effectiveness of LAFcos statewide. These bills receive primary attention and comprehensive advocacy by the Executive Director and Committee. Such advocacy may include letters of position, testimony in policy committees, direct communications with legislators, and grassroots mobilization of members and any combination of effort. This level requires the highest resource commitment.
Priority 2	Bills have a direct impact on or are of interest to CALAFCO or its members; may set a policy precedent or have impact relevant to the mission of CALAFCO or its member LAFcos, or have a major importance to a CALAFCO member or group of members or constituents. These bills receive position letters and testimony to policy committees as time permits or upon request of the author or sponsor.
Priority 3	Bills have an interest to CALAFCO or members, and may have a substantive effect but are deemed to be of a lower priority as to time and effort resources for advocacy. If requested by a CALAFCO member or stakeholder and approved by the Committee, CALAFCO will send a position letter but will not testify unless

Resource Priority Level	Level Description
	unusual circumstances arise and if time allows, so as to not conflict with other higher priorities. Minimal resources are to be committed to Priority 3 bills.

From time to time, impacts of and priorities on bills and issues may change. The Executive Director is empowered to use her/his discretion in evaluating such circumstances and, where applicable, if time is of the essence, may change position or priority on a bill when considered in the best interest of CALAFCO and consistent with adopted policy. Such action, including a description of the circumstances that led to the change, shall be communicated to the Committee and Board as soon as possible after such an action is taken. When timing allows a delay in considering a change of impact or priority on a bill or issue, the Executive Director shall obtain the input and action of the Committee.

SECTION VII. Definitions

Author: A member of the Legislature who introduces a legislative measure (bill).

Author/Sponsor: Legislator who is authoring or carrying the bill without a designated sponsor.

Bill: A proposed law, introduced during a session for consideration by the Legislature, and identified numerically in order of presentation; also, a reference that may include joint and concurrent resolutions and constitutional amendments.

Proposition: A direct initiative process which allows state citizens to bypass the Legislature and have a voice in directly adding, repealing or amending provisions of the California Constitution or statutes. Ballot propositions can be proposed either by the Legislature or citizens.

Sponsor: The private individual or group who developed a piece of legislation and advocates its passage.

Spot Bill: A bill that proposes nonsubstantive amendments to a code section in a particular subject; introduced to assure that a bill will be available, subsequent to the deadline to introduce bills, for revision by amendments that are germane to the subject of the bill.



CALAFCO 2024 Legislative Policies

As adopted by the Board of Directors on December 1, 2023

1. LAFCo Purpose and Authority

- 1.1. Support legislation that enhances LAFCo authority and powers to carry out the legislative findings and authority in Government Code §56000 et seq. Oppose legislation that diminishes LAFCo authority.
- 1.2. Support authority for each LAFCo to establish local policies to apply Government Code §56000 et seq. based on local needs and conditions. Oppose any limitations to that authority.
- 1.3. Oppose additional LAFCo responsibilities that require expansion of current local funding sources. Oppose unrelated responsibilities that dilute LAFCo ability to meet its primary mission.
- 1.4. Support alignment of responsibilities and authority of LAFCo and regional agencies that may have overlapping responsibilities in orderly growth, agricultural and open space preservation, and municipal service delivery. Oppose legislation or policies that create conflicts or hamper those responsibilities.
- 1.5. Oppose grants of special status to any individual agency or proposal to circumvent the LAFCo process.
- 1.6. Support individual commissioner responsibility that allows each commissioner to independently vote his or her conscience on issues affecting his or her own jurisdiction.

2. LAFCo Organization

- 2.1. Support LAFCo independence from local agencies.
- 2.2. Oppose the re-composition of any LAFCo to create special seats and recognize the importance of balanced representation provided by cities, the county, the public, and special districts in advancing the public interest.
- 2.3. Support representation of special districts on all LAFCos in counties with independent districts and oppose removal of special districts from any LAFCo.
- 2.4. Support communication and collaborative decision-making among neighboring LAFCos when growth pressures and multicounty agencies extend beyond an individual LAFCo's boundaries.

3. Agricultural and Open Space Protection

- 3.1. Support legislation that clarifies LAFCo authority to identify, encourage and ensure the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.2. Encourage a consistent definition of agricultural and open space lands.
- 3.3. Support policies that encourage cities, counties and special districts to discourage development on all types of agricultural lands, including prime agricultural lands and open space lands.
- 3.4. Support policies and tools that protect all types of agricultural lands, including prime agricultural lands and open space lands.
- 3.5. Support the continuance of the Williamson Act and restoration of program funding through State subvention payments.

4. Orderly Growth

- 4.1. Support the recognition and use of spheres of influence as a planning tool pertaining to growth and development, and the preservation of agricultural and open space lands.
- 4.2. Support recognition of LAFCo spheres of influence by other agencies involved in determining and developing long-term growth and infrastructure plans.
- 4.3. Support orderly boundaries of local agencies and the elimination of islands within the sphere of influence and boundaries of agencies.
- 4.4. Support communication among cities, counties, special districts, stakeholders and affected parties through a collaborative process that resolves service, infrastructure, housing, land use, and fiscal issues, prior to application to LAFCo.
- 4.5. Support cooperation between counties and cities on decisions related to development within a city's designated sphere of influence.
- 4.6. Support cooperation between cities and special districts on decisions related to development within city and district spheres of influence that overlap.
- 4.7. Support the recognition of extreme natural disasters and disaster preparedness when considering growth and service delivery issues.

5. Service Delivery and Local Agency Effectiveness

- 5.1. Support the use of LAFCo resources to review Regional Transportation Plans, with a focus on sustainable communities strategies and other growth plans to ensure reliable services, orderly growth, and conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates. Support efforts that enhance meaningful collaboration between LAFCOs and regional planning agencies.
- 5.2. Support LAFCo authority as the preferred method of local governance. Support the availability of LAFCo tools that provide options for local governance and efficient service delivery, including the authority to impose conditions that assure a proposal's conformity with LAFCo's legislative mandates.
- 5.3. Support a deliberative and open process for the creation or reorganization of local governments that evaluates the proposed new or successor agency's long-term financial viability, governance structure and ability to efficiently deliver proposed services.
- 5.4. Support the availability of tools for LAFCo to insure equitable distribution of revenues to local government agencies consistent with their service delivery responsibilities.
- 5.5. Support legislation and collaborative efforts among agencies and LAFCOs that encourage opportunities for sharing of services, staff and facilities to provide more efficient and cost-effective services.

2024 Legislative Priorities

Primary Issues

Authority of LAFCo

Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's authority to condition proposals in order to address any or all financial, growth, service delivery, and agricultural and open space preservation issues. Support legislation that maintains or enhances LAFCo's ability to make decisions regarding boundaries and formations, and to enact recommendations related to the delivery of services and the agencies providing them, including changes of organization and reorganizations.

Agriculture and Open Space Protection

Support policies, programs and legislation that recognize LAFCo's mission to protect and mitigate the loss of all types of agricultural lands, including prime agricultural lands and open space lands and that encourage other agencies to coordinate with local LAFCos on land preservation and orderly growth. Support efforts that encourage the creation of habitat conservation plans.

Water Availability

Support policies, programs and legislation that promote an integrated approach to water availability and management. Promote adequate water supplies and infrastructure planning for current and planned growth and disadvantaged communities, and that support the sustainability of all types of agricultural lands, including prime agricultural lands and open space lands. Support policies that assist LAFCo in obtaining accurate and reliable water supply information in order to evaluate current and cumulative water demands for service expansions and boundary changes. Such policies should include the impacts of expanding water company service areas on orderly growth, and the impacts of consolidation or dissolution of water companies providing services.

Viability of Local Services

Support policies, programs and legislation that maintain or enhance LAFCo's ability to review and act to determine the efficient and sustainable delivery of local services and the financial viability of agencies providing those services to meet current and future needs including those identified in regional planning efforts such as sustainable communities strategies. Support legislation that provides LAFCo and local communities with options for local governance that ensures efficient, effective, and quality service delivery. Support efforts that provide tools to local agencies to address aging infrastructure, fiscal challenges, declining levels of services, and inadequate services to disadvantaged communities.

Issues of Interest

Housing

Provision of territory and services to support housing plans consistent with State affordable housing mandates, regional land use plans and local LAFCo policies.

Transportation

Effects of Regional Transportation Plans and expansion of transportation systems on future urban growth and service delivery needs, and the ability of local agencies to provide those services.

Flood Control

The ability and effectiveness of local agencies to maintain and improve levees and protect current infrastructure. Carefully consider the value of uninhabited territory, and the impact to public safety of proposed annexation to urban areas of uninhabited territory at risk of flooding. Support legislation that includes assessment of agency viability in decisions involving new funds for levee repair and maintenance. Support efforts that encourage the creation of habitat conservation plans.

Adequate Municipal Services In Inhabited Territory

Consistency of expedited processes for inhabited annexations with LAFCo law that include fiscal viability. Promote environmental justice for underserved inhabited communities, funding sources should be identified for extension of municipal services, including options for annexation of contiguous disadvantaged unincorporated communities. Support policies, programs, and legislation that would provide adequate municipal services to disadvantaged communities. Promote the delivery of adequate, sustainable, efficient, and effective levels of municipal services through periodic updates and reviews of Municipal Service Reviews, Spheres of Influence, and related studies prepared by LAFCos.

Climate Adaptation

The ability and effectiveness of local agencies to proactively and effectively address issues that impact municipal service infrastructure and service delivery that include sea level rise, sand erosion, and levee protection. Adequate resources for local agencies to prepare for and appropriately respond to extreme disasters related to climate change. Ensure local agencies are considering climate resiliency when considering future development.

2024 Events Calendar

JANUARY

- 5 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
- 12 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
- 24-26 League New Mayor & Council Academy
- 24-26 CA Assn. of Sanitation Agencies Winter Conference (Palm Springs)

FEBRUARY

- 10-13 NACo Legislative Conference
- 16 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†

MARCH

- 22 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†

APRIL

- 12 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
- 17-19 CA State Assn. of Counties Leg Days (Sacto.)
- 23-26 Fire District Assn. Annual Meeting (Seaside)
- 24-26 CALAFCO Staff Workshop (Pleasanton)

MAY

- 7-9 Assn. of CA Water Agencies Conference (Sacto.)
- 10 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
- 21-22 CA Special Districts Assn. Leg Days (Sacto.)

JUNE

- 14 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†

JULY

- 12 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
- 19 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Virtual)*
- 31 CA Assn. of Sanitation Agencies Annual Conference (Monterey)

AUGUST

- 1-2 CA Assn. of Sanitation Agencies Annual Conference (Monterey)
- 23 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual), if needed†

SEPTEMBER

- 9-12 CA Special Districts Assn. Conference (Monterey)
- 18-20 Regional Council of Rural Counties Annual Meeting (Sonoma)

OCTOBER

- 16-18 League Annual Conference (Long Beach)
- 16-18 CALAFCO Annual Conference (Yosemite)
- 17 CALAFCO Annual Business Meeting (Yosemite)
- 18 CALAFCO Board of Directors Meeting (Yosemite)

NOVEMBER

- 1 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual)†
- 18-22 CA State Assn. of Counties Annual Conference (Pasadena)

DECEMBER

- 3-5 Assn. of CA Water Agencies Conference (Palm Desert)
- 6 CALAFCO Legislative Committee (Virtual), if needed†

*Regular Board Meetings start at 10:00 AM

†Legislative Committee Meetings start at 9:00 AM

For current information and other CALAFCO resources please visit www.calafco.org

2024

4.5 Legislative Policies and Committee

Legislative Policies

In the fall of each year the Board shall review and update the CALAFCO Legislative Policies. These policies are intended to drive the work of the Legislative Committee and provide the Committee and staff with policy direction on legislative positions. The Legislative Policies consist of two parts: 1) the longer-term legislative policies of the association; and 2) legislative priorities that the Board may establish for the legislative session through its strategic planning session.

Legislative Committee

Purpose

The Committee acts on behalf of the Board in developing and taking positions on legislation based on the Board's Legislative Policies.

All CALAFCO members are encouraged to offer proposed legislation, request agenda items, attend meetings and participate in Committee discussions.

Committee Structure

The committee shall consist of 15 voting members and ten alternate voting members appointed annually by the Board. Committee members shall include:

- Four Board Members, one from each region, each with an alternate
- One Board Member, at-large, and one alternate
- Eight voting staff members, two from each region, plus one alternate member per region
- Two legal counsel.

If there is an insufficient number of volunteers in a region, voting and alternate seats may be filled at-large by other regions, as recommended by the committee's Chair and Vice Chair.

Alternates appointed to staff seats will serve on a rotating basis whenever a regular member is absent.

The CALAFCO Executive Officer or designated Deputy Executive Officer shall also be a member and shall be one of the above regional voting or alternate member appointees.

No more than one voting staff member appointee may serve from any one LAFCo. The Board will endeavor to appoint balanced representation from all regions.

Member Eligibility

Preference for staff appointments is based on interest, expertise, past participation, and adequate statewide representation.

Advisory Members

There shall also be a standing Legislative Committee Advisory Sub-Committee which consists of staff and legal counsel volunteers who are not appointed as voting or alternate members, and two volunteer Associate Members. The role of the Advisory Committee shall be to assist

These policies and procedures were adopted by the CALAFCO Board of Directors on 12 January 2007 and amended on 9 November 2007, 8 February 2008, 13 February 2009, 12 February 2010, 18 February 2011, 29 April 2011, 11 July 2014, 27 October 2017, 11 May 2018, 24 July 2020, 30 April 2021, 30 July, 2021, 21 January, 2022, 22 July 2022, and 1 December 2023. They supersede all previous versions of the policies.

the Legislative Committee on an as-needed basis on certain pieces of legislation or legislative projects.

Appointments

The Board shall appoint the members of the CALAFCO Legislative Committee in the fall of each year.

Recommendations for appointments shall be made to the Board by the committee's Chair and Vice Chair.

Association Staff

The CALAFCO Executive Director and CALAFCO Legal Counsel, and Legal Counsel's alternate, shall be non-voting members of the committee.

Meetings

The Committee will meet in person at alternating locations between Sacramento and Southern California. Meetings may also be conducted virtually. Action minutes will be prepared for each meeting and distributed to each member as well as the Executive Officer of each LAFCo.

The Committee meets monthly, or as needed, during key periods of the legislative session.

Seven (7) of the fifteen (15) voting members have to be present to convene a meeting. Meetings unable to convene within fifteen (15) minutes of the agendaized start time due to the lack of sufficient members in attendance shall be cancelled and the members present disbanded.

The Committee will strive towards consensus on all decisions. Should a consensus not be possible, decisions will be made by a majority vote.

In cases where legislative policy is unclear, there is significant disagreement among committee members, a financial commitment is required, or at the request of any of the participating Board members, the Committee shall send an item to the full Board for consideration.

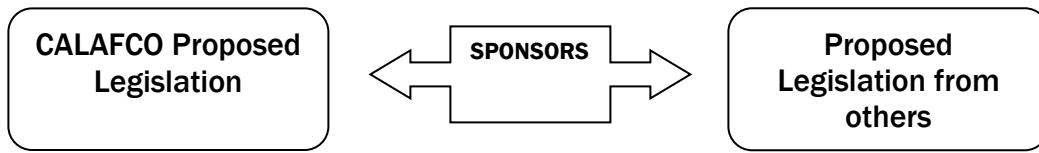
Reports to the Board

The Board is to be presented with a full update on Committee activity at every Board meeting.

Legislative Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The Board has designated the Executive Director to serve as Chair of the Legislative Committee. In this capacity, the Executive Director shall be a non-voting member of the Committee. The Chair shall appoint a volunteer LAFCo staff member who is a member of the Legislative Committee as Vice Chair. The Vice Chair serves as Chair in the absence of the Chair, and retains his/her voting rights while serving in that capacity. The Vice Chair will provide a leadership role in legislative research and may assist in developing the CKH omnibus bill.

Legislative Process from the CALAFCO Perspective



May have discussion and collaboration with affected stakeholders

Identify **AUTHOR** for Legislation - Assembly or Senate or Committee

Legislation reviewed by Legislative Counsel and Introduced by Author(s)

Bill is assigned to Committee(s) or lingers in Rules

CALAFCO tracks legislation and determines bills of interest. Meet with sponsors, authors and/or stakeholders to address issues of concern. Review by Legislative Committee. Attempt to have bill amended to meet needs. Position taken. Legislative staff report prepared; CALAFCO may be consulted. Support and oppose listed

Committee(s) hear bill. CALAFCO testifies. Amendments taken. Vote.

Bill amended. May be heard in other committees, including Appropriations. Continuing discussion with stakeholders. All hearings provide opportunities to amend or kill a bill.

Bill heard on floor. No testimony. May pass, die, or be placed in "unfinished business"

If passes, goes to the other house for action.

Bill is read on the floor.

Bill is assigned to Committee(s) or lingers in Rules

Meet with sponsors, authors and/or stakeholders to address issues of concern. Review by Legislative Committee. Attempt to have bill amended to meet needs. Position taken. Legislative staff report prepared; CALAFCO may be consulted. Support and oppose listed

Committee(s) hear bill. CALAFCO testifies. Amendments taken. Vote.

Bill amended. May be heard in other committees, including Appropriations. Continuing discussion with stakeholders. All hearings provide opportunities to amend or kill a bill.

Bill heard on floor. No testimony. May pass, die, or be placed in "unfinished business"

If passes with changes, goes back to other house for concurrence. May or may not be reheard in committee before floor vote

If passes, goes to enrollment and then Governor's desk.

Final opportunity to influence legislation. CALAFCO prepares letters to sign or veto. Governor can sign or not sign (becomes law), or veto.



2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised 11/4/22

DEADLINES

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	<u>1</u>	2	<u>3</u>	4	5	6
7	8	9	<u>10</u>	11	<u>12</u>	13
14	<u>15</u>	16	17	18	<u>19</u>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<u>31</u>			

- [Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).
- [Jan. 3](#) **Legislature Reconvenes** (J.R. 51(a)(4)).
- [Jan. 10](#) Budget must be submitted by Governor (Art. IV, Sec. 12(a)).
- [Jan. 12](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house in the **odd-numbered year** (J.R. 61(b)(1)).
- [Jan. 15](#) Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.
- [Jan. 19](#) Last day for any committee to hear and report to the **floor** bills introduced in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(2)).

Last day to **submit bill requests** to the Office of Legislative Counsel.
- [Jan. 31](#) Last day for each house to **pass bills introduced** in that house in the odd-numbered year (J.R. 61(b)(3), (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c)).

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	<u>16</u>	17
18	<u>19</u>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

- [Feb. 16](#) Last day for bills to be **introduced** (J.R. 61(b)(4), (J.R. 54(a)).
- [Feb. 19](#) Presidents' Day.

MARCH						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	<u>21</u>	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	<u>29</u>	30
31						

- [Mar. 21](#) **Spring Recess** begins upon adjournment of this day's session (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- [Mar. 29](#) Cesar Chavez Day observed.

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	<u>1</u>	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	<u>26</u>	27
28	29	30				

- [Apr. 1](#) Legislature Reconvenes from **Spring Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(1)).
- [Apr. 26](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to **fiscal committees** fiscal bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(5)).

MAY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
			1	2	<u>3</u>	4
5	6	7	8	9	<u>10</u>	11
12	13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>	18
19	<u>20</u>	21	22	23	<u>24</u>	25
26	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	29	30	31	

- [May 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to hear and report to the floor **non-fiscal** bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(6)).
- [May 10](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(7)).
- [May 17](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to hear and report to the floor bills introduced in their house (J.R. 61(b)(8)).

Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet prior to May 28 (J.R. 61(b)(9)).
- [May 20- 24](#) **Floor Session only.** No committees, other than conference or Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61 (b)(10)).
- [May 24](#) Last day for each house to pass bills introduced in that house (J.R. 61(b)(11)).
- [May 27](#) Memorial Day.
- [May 28](#) Committee meetings may resume (J.R. 61(b)(12)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval

2024 TENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

COMPILED BY THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE ASSEMBLY CHIEF CLERK
Revised 11/4/22

JUNE						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	<u>15</u>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	<u>27</u>	28	29
30						

[June 15](#) Budget Bill must be passed by **midnight** (Art. IV, Sec. 12(c)(3)).

[June 27](#) Last day for a legislative measure to qualify for the Nov. 5 General Election ballot (Elections Code Sec. 9040).

JULY						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
	1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

[July 3](#) Last day for **policy committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(13)).

Summer Recess begins upon adjournment provided Budget Bill has been passed (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

[July 4](#) Independence Day.

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	<u>5</u>	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	<u>16</u>	17
18	<u>19</u>	20	21	22	<u>23</u>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	<u>31</u>

[Aug. 5](#) Legislature Reconvenes from **Summer Recess** (J.R. 51(b)(2)).

[Aug. 16](#) Last day for **fiscal committees** to meet and report bills (J.R. 61(b)(14)).

[Aug. 19-31](#) **Floor Session only.** No committees, other than conference and Rules committees, may meet for any purpose (J.R. 61(b)(15)).

[Aug. 23](#) Last day to **amend** on the floor (J.R. 61(b)(16)).

[Aug. 31](#) Last day for **each house to pass bills.** (Art. IV, Sec. 10(c), (J.R. 61(b)(17)).

Final Recess begins upon adjournment (J.R. 51(b)(3)).

*Holiday schedule subject to Senate Rules committee approval

IMPORTANT DATES OCCURRING DURING FINAL STUDY RECESS

2024

[Sept. 30](#) Last day for Governor to sign or veto bills passed by the Legislature before Sept. 1 and in the Governor’s possession on or after Sept. 1 (Art. IV, Sec. 10(b)(2)).

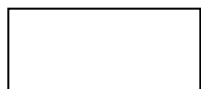
[Nov. 5](#) General Election

[Nov. 30](#) Adjournment *Sine Die* at midnight (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

[Dec. 2](#) 12 Noon convening of the 2025-26 Regular Session (Art. IV, Sec. 3(a)).

2025

[Jan. 1](#) Statutes take effect (Art. IV, Sec. 8(c)).



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 2024 OMNIBUS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Meeting Date: January 12, 2024

Prepared By: René LaRoche/Joe Serrano

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Receive overview of conversation with ALGC Consultant relative to CALAFCO's Omnibus items.
2. Receive status update on Omnibus items.

BACKGROUND

Each year, local officials discover minor problems with state statutes affecting counties, cities, and special districts. These minor problems do not warrant separate (and expensive) bills, which is why the Legislators combine several of these minor topics into an annual "omnibus bill." In July 2023, the CALAFCO Legislative Committee reviewed five proposals to be considered for the 2024 Omnibus Bill. The following section provides a brief summary for each proposal.

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Proposed Change #1: Distinction between "Proposals" and "Applications"

The 2022 Omnibus Bill replaced the word "proposal" with "application" under certain code sections to properly define the status of the requested boundary change. However, not all related code sections were updated as part of the 2022 Omnibus Bill. This proposal would update additional code sections with the proper terminology, specifically within Government Code Sections 56861 and 56862. These code sections involve the formation of subsidiary districts and incorrectly refer to proposals instead of applications.

Status Update: Approved by the Legislative Committee on 7/21/23; Currently being reviewed by the State Assembly Local Government Committee.

Proposed Change #2: Clarify Timing Requirement

Government Code Section 57002 (b) allows for an affected district to request a longer protest period when the proposal is for the establishment of a district as a subsidiary district of a city. However, there is no timing requirement for when such request should be made. This proposal would require requests for an extension be submitted within 10 days of a resolution being adopted by the affected LAFCO.

Status Update: Approved by the Legislative Committee on 7/21/23; Currently being reviewed by the State Assembly Local Government Committee.

Proposed Change #3: Clearly Define Improvement Districts

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act references “improvement districts” and “zones” separately. The intent of the proposed change is to always include “zones” whenever language in the CKH Act refers to an “improvement district.” This proposal has been modified to meet the Omnibus Bill criteria following coordination between the CALAFCO Legislative Committee, the representatives from the State Legislature, and San Bernardino LAFCO.

Status Update: Approved by the Legislative Committee on 7/21/23; Currently being reviewed by the State Assembly Local Government Committee.

Proposed Change #4: Property Tax Exchange Clarification

Government Code Section 56810 provides the process and authority for LAFCO to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency involving the formation of a new special district. However, current law is unclear on guidelines when an agency is seeking or not seeking the ad valorem property taxes. The proposal would include additional language that would maintain the authority and requirement for LAFCO to determine the property tax revenues to be exchanged for an affected agency for applications involving the formation of a special district whereby the affected agency is seeking a share of the 1%, while excluding this requirement of LAFCO if the applicant has indicated that the agency will not be seeking a share of the 1%.

Status Update: Approved by the Legislative Committee on 7/21/23; Currently being reviewed by the State Assembly Local Government Committee.

Proposed Change #5: Determination of a Newly Formed District's Board Composition

The State Legislature has increasingly approved special legislation to create special districts in a manner that circumvents LAFCO authority. The proposal would amend Government Code Section 56886(n) to give LAFCO broader power to set the composition of new or consolidating special districts. If approved, the amendment would give LAFCO the tool it needs to structure district governance without the need for special legislation to authorize special board composition.

Status Update: Approved by the Legislative Committee on 7/21/23; Currently being reviewed by the State Assembly Local Government Committee.

Attachment:

None.

CapitolTrack[®] Session: 2023/24 Hello calafco. Logout [Today's Events](#)

Bill Keyword Author Smart Regular ALL ### GO

Workspace My Tools Links CTAnalyze

Mark Reviewed Print/Email Back

Word Cloud

AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
APRIL 12, 2023

AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
MARCH 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 68

Introduced by Assembly Member Ward

December 08, 2022

An act to amend Section 65585 of, to add Sections 65040.18, 65914.7.5, and 66425.5 to, and to add Chapter 4.3.1 (commencing with Section 65918.5) to Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code, relating to land use.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 68, as amended, Ward. Land use: streamlined housing approvals: density, subdivision, and utility approvals.

Existing law, the Planning and Zoning Law, authorizes a development proponent to submit an application for a multifamily housing development that is subject to a streamlined, ministerial approval process, as provided, and not subject to a conditional use permit, if the development satisfies specified objective planning standards.

This bill would require a local government to approve a proposed housing development pursuant to a streamlined, ministerial approval process if the development meets certain objective planning standards, including, but not limited to, a requirement that the proposed parcel for the development be a climate-smart parcel, as described, or be included in the applicable region's sustainable communities strategy as a priority development area. The bill would set forth procedures for approving these developments and would set forth various limitations for these developments. The bill would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development to review, adopt, amend, and repeal guidelines, rules, and regulations to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, or standards set forth by this process.

Existing law requires the department to notify a city, county, or city and county, and authorizes the department to notify the office of the Attorney General, that the city, county, or city and county is in violation of state law if the department finds that the housing element or an amendment to the housing element does not substantially comply with specified provisions of the Planning and Zoning Law, or that the local government has taken action in violation of specified provisions of law relating to housing, including, among others, the Housing Accountability Act, the Density Bonus Law, and the Housing Crisis Act of 2019.

This bill would add the streamlining procedures added by the bill to the list of laws subject to this notification requirement.

The Planning and Zoning Law requires a city or county to adopt a general plan for land use development within its boundaries that includes, among other things, a housing element. Existing law also sets forth various procedures related to land use actions and utility service in local jurisdictions, including, but not limited to, a requirement that a tentative a final map be made for certain housing projects, including all subdivisions creating 5 or more parcels.

This bill would prohibit a county, or city if certain conditions are met, from increasing the planned density on climate resilient lands, as defined, from approving any tentative, final, or parcel maps for the subdivision of property within climate risk lands or climate refugia lands, as defined, and from approving an extension of water or sewer services on climate resilient lands unless specified planning requirements or conditions are met. The bill would require, as part of those requirements or conditions, the county or city to make certain findings that are confirmed by the Office of Planning and Research. The bill would set forth procedures for requesting those findings from the office. The bill would make conforming changes.

By imposing additional duties on local officials, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The bill would include findings that changes proposed by this bill address a matter of statewide concern rather than a municipal affair and, therefore, apply to all cities, including charter cities.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: yes Local Program: yes

ATTACHMENT A

Agenda Packet Pg 33

Bill Text**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:****SECTION 1.** Section 65040.18 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65040.18. (a) A county may submit an application to the office, in the form and manner prescribed by the office, for the following purposes:

- (1) Receiving findings from the office for purposes of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65918.5.03.
- (2) Receiving findings from the office for purposes of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65918.5.03.

(b) The office shall, in consultation with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Natural Resources Agency, review applications submitted by a county pursuant to subdivision (a).

(c) (1) For applications submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a), the office shall issue findings in favor of the county for purposes of subparagraph (D) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65918.5.03 if all of the following apply:

- (A) There is a lack of sufficient acreage in existing communities for the proposed residential development that is necessary to meet the county's regional housing need.
- (B) Acres that may be designated in existing communities for the proposed residential development for purposes of meeting the county's regional housing need are unlikely to be developed in the required timeframe to meet the county's regional housing need.
- (C) The county cannot redesignate sufficient acreage on lands outside of climate resilient lands to meet the county's regional housing need because the redesignation of land is infeasible or because there is insufficient acreage available for redesignation.

(2) For purposes of this subdivision, "proposed residential development" means the development related to the county's increase in planned density, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer service pursuant to Chapter 4.3.1 (commencing with Section 65918.5).

(d) The office may review, adopt, amend, and repeal guidelines to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, or standards set forth in this section.

(e) For purposes of this section, the definitions in Chapter 4.3.1 (commencing with Section 65918.5) apply.

(f) References to "county" in this section shall also refer to a city when related to lands subject to Section 65918.5.04.

SEC. 2. Section 65585 of the Government Code is amended to read:

65585. (a) In the preparation of its housing element, each city and county shall consider the guidelines adopted by the department pursuant to Section 50459 of the Health and Safety Code. Those guidelines shall be advisory to each city or county in the preparation of its housing element.

(b) (1) At least 90 days prior to adoption of a revision of its housing element pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 65588, or at least 60 days prior to the adoption of a subsequent amendment to this element, the planning agency shall submit a draft element revision or draft amendment to the department. The local government of the planning agency shall make the first draft revision of a housing element available for public comment for at least 30 days and, if any comments are received, the local government shall take at least 10 business days after the 30-day public comment period to consider and incorporate public comments into the draft revision prior to submitting it to the department. For any subsequent draft revision, the local government shall post the draft revision on its internet website and shall email a link to the draft revision to all individuals and organizations that have previously requested notices relating to the local government's housing element at least seven days before submitting the draft revision to the department.

(2) The planning agency staff shall collect and compile the public comments regarding the housing element received by the city, county, or city and county, and provide these comments to each member of the legislative body before it adopts the housing element.

(3) The department shall review the draft and report its written findings to the planning agency within 90 days of its receipt of the first draft submittal for each housing element revision pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 65588 or within 60 days of its receipt of a subsequent draft amendment or an adopted revision or adopted amendment to an element. The department shall not review the first draft submitted for each housing element revision pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 65588 until the local government has made the draft available for public comment for at least 30 days and, if comments were received, has taken at least 10 business days to consider and incorporate public comments pursuant to paragraph (1).

(c) In the preparation of its findings, the department may consult with any public agency, group, or person. The department shall receive and consider any written comments from any public agency, group, or person regarding the draft or adopted element or amendment under review.

(d) In its written findings, the department shall determine whether the draft element or draft amendment substantially complies with this article.

(e) Prior to the adoption of its draft element or draft amendment, the legislative body shall consider the findings made by the department. If the department's findings are not available within the time limits set by this section, the legislative body may act without them.

(f) If the department finds that the draft element or draft amendment does not substantially comply with this article, the legislative body shall take one of the following actions:

- (1) Change the draft element or draft amendment to substantially comply with this article.
- (2) Adopt the draft element or draft amendment without changes. The legislative body shall include in its resolution of adoption written findings which explain the reasons the legislative body believes that the draft element or draft amendment substantially complies with this article despite the findings of the department.

(g) Promptly following the adoption of its element or amendment, the planning agency shall submit a copy to the department.

(h) The department shall, within 90 days, review adopted housing elements or amendments and report its findings to the planning agency.

(i) (1) (A) The department shall review any action or failure to act by the city, county, or city and county that it determines is inconsistent with an adopted housing element or Section 65583, including any failure to implement any program actions included in the housing element pursuant to Section 65583. The department shall issue written findings to the city, county, or city and county as to whether the action or failure to act substantially complies with this article, and provide a reasonable time no longer than 30 days for the city, county, or city and county to respond to the findings before taking any other action authorized by this section, including the action authorized by subparagraph (B).

(B) If the department finds that the action or failure to act by the city, county, or city and county does not substantially comply with this article, and if it has issued findings pursuant to this section that an amendment to the housing element substantially complies with this article, the department may revoke its findings until it determines that the city, county, or city and county has come into compliance with this article.

(2) The department may consult with any local government, public agency, group, or person, and shall receive and consider any written comments from any public agency, group, or person, regarding the action or failure to act by the city, county, or city and county described in paragraph (1), in determining whether the housing element substantially complies with this article.

(j) The department shall notify the city, county, or city and county and may notify the office of the Attorney General that the city, county, or city and county is in violation of state law if the department finds that the housing element or an amendment to this element, or any action or failure to act described in subdivision (i), does not substantially comply with this article or that any local government has taken an action in violation of the following:

- (1) Housing Accountability Act (Section 65589.5).
- (2) Section 65863.
- (3) Chapter 4.3 (commencing with Section 65915).
- (4) Section 65008.
- (5) Housing Crisis Act of 2019 (Chapter 654, Statutes of 2019, Sections 65941.1, 65943, and 66300).
- (6) Section 8899.50.
- (7) Section 65913.4.
- (8) Article 11 (commencing with Section 65650).
- (9) Article 12 (commencing with Section 65660).
- (10) Section 65913.11.
- (11) Section 65400.
- (12) Section 65863.2.
- (13) Chapter 4.1 (commencing with Section 65912.100).
- (14) Section 65914.7.5.

(k) Commencing July 1, 2019, prior to the Attorney General bringing any suit for a violation of the provisions identified in subdivision (j) related to housing element compliance and seeking remedies available pursuant to this subdivision, the department shall offer the jurisdiction the opportunity for two meetings in person or via telephone to discuss the violation, and shall provide the jurisdiction written findings regarding the violation. This paragraph does not affect any action filed prior to the effective date of this section. The requirements set forth in this subdivision do not apply to any suits brought for a violation or violations of paragraphs (1) and (3) to (9), inclusive, of subdivision (j).

(l) In any action or special proceeding brought by the Attorney General relating to housing element compliance pursuant to a notice or referral under subdivision (j), the Attorney General may request, upon a finding of the court that the housing element does not substantially comply with the requirements of this article pursuant to this section, that the court issue an order or judgment directing the jurisdiction to bring its housing element into substantial compliance with the requirements of this article. The court shall retain jurisdiction to ensure that its order or judgment is carried out. If a court determines that the housing element of the jurisdiction substantially complies with this article, it shall have the same force and effect, for purposes of eligibility for any financial assistance that requires a housing element in substantial compliance and for purposes of any incentives provided under Section 65589.9, as a determination by the department that the housing element substantially complies with this article.

(1) If the jurisdiction has not complied with the order or judgment after 12 months, the court shall conduct a status conference. Following the status conference, upon a determination that the jurisdiction failed to comply with the order or judgment compelling substantial compliance with the requirements of this article, the court shall impose fines on the jurisdiction, which shall be deposited into the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund. Any fine levied pursuant to this paragraph shall be in a minimum amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per month, but shall not exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) per month, except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3). In the event that the jurisdiction fails to pay fines imposed by the court in full and on time, the court may require the Controller to intercept any available state and local funds and direct such funds to the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund to correct the jurisdiction's failure to pay. The intercept of the funds by the Controller for this purpose shall not violate any provision of the California Constitution.

(2) If the jurisdiction has not complied with the order or judgment after three months following the imposition of fees described in paragraph (1), the court shall conduct a status conference. Following the status conference, if the court finds that the fees imposed pursuant to paragraph (1) are insufficient to bring the jurisdiction into compliance with the order or judgment, the court may multiply the fine determined pursuant to paragraph (1) by a factor of three. In the event that the jurisdiction fails to pay fines imposed by the court in full and on time, the court may require the Controller to intercept any available state and local funds and direct such funds to the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund to correct the jurisdiction's failure to pay. The intercept of the funds by the Controller for this purpose shall not violate any provision of the California Constitution.

(3) If the jurisdiction has not complied with the order or judgment six months following the imposition of fees described in paragraph (1), the court shall conduct a status conference. Upon a determination that the jurisdiction failed to comply with the order or judgment, the court may impose the following:

(A) If the court finds that the fees imposed pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) are insufficient to bring the jurisdiction into compliance with the order or judgment, the court may multiply the fine determined pursuant to paragraph (1) by a factor of six. In the event that the jurisdiction fails to pay fines imposed by the court in full and on time, the court may require the Controller to intercept any available state and local funds and direct such funds to the Building Homes and Jobs Trust Fund to correct the jurisdiction's failure to pay. The intercept of the funds by the Controller for this purpose shall not violate any provision of the California Constitution.

(B) The court may order remedies available pursuant to Section 564 of the Code of Civil Procedure, under which the agent of the court may take all governmental actions necessary to bring the jurisdiction's housing element into substantial compliance pursuant to this article in order to remedy identified deficiencies. The court shall determine whether the housing element of the jurisdiction substantially complies with this article and, once the court makes that determination, it shall have the same force and effect, for all purposes, as the department's determination that the housing element substantially complies with this article. An agent appointed pursuant to this paragraph shall have expertise in planning in California.

(4) This subdivision does not limit a court's discretion to apply any and all remedies in an action or special proceeding for a violation of any law identified in subdivision (j).

(m) In determining the application of the remedies available under subdivision (l), the court shall consider whether there are any mitigating circumstances delaying the jurisdiction from coming into compliance with state housing law. The court may consider whether a city, county, or city and county is making a good faith effort to come into substantial compliance or is facing substantial undue hardships.

(n) Nothing in this section shall limit the authority of the office of the Attorney General to bring a suit to enforce state law in an independent capacity. The office of the Attorney General may seek all remedies available under law including those set forth in this section.

(o) Notwithstanding Sections 11040 and 11042, if the Attorney General declines to represent the department in any action or special proceeding brought pursuant to a notice or referral under subdivision (j) the department may appoint or contract with other counsel for purposes of representing the department in the action or special proceeding.

(p) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the statute of limitations set forth in subdivision (a) of Section 338 of the Code of Civil Procedure shall apply to any action or special proceeding brought by the Office of the Attorney General or pursuant to a notice or referral under subdivision (j), or by the department pursuant to subdivision (o).

SEC. 3. Section 65914.7.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

65914.7.5. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Climate smart parcel" means a parcel located in a highest resource, ~~high resource, or moderate resource~~ *high-resource, or moderate-resource* area, as categorized by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee's opportunity maps, that ~~meets~~ *satisfies at least one of the following mobility indicators: mobility indicator.*

~~(A) The parcel is located within one-half mile walking distance of either a high-quality transit corridor or a major transit stop.~~

~~(B) The parcel is located in a very low vehicle travel area.~~

~~(C) The parcel is located within a mile from a cluster of six or more of the following:~~

~~(i) Restaurants.~~

~~(ii) Bars.~~

~~(iii) Coffee shops.~~

~~(iv) Supermarkets.~~

~~(v) Grocery stores.~~

~~(vi) Hardware stores.~~

~~(vii) Parks.~~

~~(viii) Pharmacy.~~

~~(ix) Drugstore.~~

(2) "High-quality transit corridor" has the same meaning as defined in subdivision (b) of Section 21155 of the Public Resources Code.

(3) "Housing development" has the same meaning as defined in paragraph (2) of subdivision (h) of Section 65589.5.

(4) "Local agency" means a city, county, or city and county, whether general law or chartered.

(5) "Major transit stop" has the same meaning as defined in ~~Section 21064.3~~ *subdivision (b) of Section 21155* of the Public Resources Code.

~~(6) "Mobility indicator" means any of the following:~~

~~(A) The parcel is located within one-half mile walking distance of either a high-quality transit corridor or a major transit stop.~~

~~(B) The parcel is located in a very low vehicle travel area.~~

~~(C) The parcel is located within one mile from a cluster of six or more of the following:~~

~~(i) Restaurant.~~

~~(ii) Bar.~~

~~(iii) Coffee shop.~~

~~(iv) Supermarket.~~

~~(v) Grocery store.~~

~~(vi) Hardware store.~~

~~(vii) Park.~~

~~(viii) Pharmacy.~~

~~(ix) Drugstore.~~

~~(6)~~

(7) "Objective zoning standards" and "objective design review standards" mean standards that involve no personal or subjective judgment by a public official and are uniformly verifiable by reference to an external and uniform benchmark or criterion available and knowable by both the development applicant or proponent and the public official prior to submittal. These standards may be embodied in alternative objective land use specifications adopted by a local agency, and may include, but are not limited to, housing overlay zones, specific plans, inclusionary zoning ordinances, and density bonus ordinances.

(7)

(8) "Priority development area" means an area identified under the region's most recent sustainable communities strategy as prime locations for additional growth. These areas may include job centers, transit priority areas, or other characteristics where mobility options support achieving greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

(8)

(9) (A) "Very low vehicle travel area" means an urbanized area, as designated by the United States Census Bureau, where the existing residential development generates vehicle miles traveled per capita that is below 85 percent of either regional vehicle miles traveled per capita or city vehicle miles traveled per ~~capita~~ *capita, or county vehicle miles per capita.*

(B) For purposes of this subdivision, "area" may include a travel analysis zone, hexagon, or grid.

(C) For purposes of determining "regional vehicle miles traveled per capita" pursuant to this subdivision, a "region" is the entirety of incorporated and unincorporated areas governed by a multicounty or single-county metropolitan planning organization, or the entirety of the incorporated and unincorporated areas of an individual county that is not part of a metropolitan planning organization.

(b) A proposed housing development shall be subject to a streamlined, ministerial approval process in subdivision (c) without discretionary review or hearing, if the proposed housing development *consists of multiple units and* satisfies all of the following objective planning standards:

(1) (A) ~~For incorporated areas, the proposed housing development is proposed to be developed on a legal parcel or parcels that includes at least a portion of an~~ *It is a legal parcel or parcels located in a city if, and only if, the city boundaries include some portion of either* urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

(B) For unincorporated areas, the proposed housing development is proposed to be developed on a legal parcel or parcels wholly within the boundaries of an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

(2) The proposed parcel for the proposed housing development is zoned for residential use or residential mixed-use development, or has a general plan designation that allows residential use or a mix of residential and nonresidential uses, and at least two-thirds of the square footage of the development is designated for residential use. Additional density, floor area, and units, and any other concession, incentive, or waiver of development standards granted pursuant to the Density Bonus Law in Section 65915 shall be included in the square footage calculation. The square footage of the development shall not include underground space, such as basements or underground parking garages.

(3) (A) The proposed parcel for the proposed housing development satisfies the requirements specified in subparagraphs (B) to (K), inclusive, of paragraph (6) of subdivision (a) of Section 65913.4.

(B) The proposed parcel is not in an area projected to experience flooding at less than or equal to sea level rise of five feet according to information from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or according to the best available science.

(C) The proposed parcel is not on natural lands within 100 meters width of streams or rivers, including, but not limited to, streams or rivers mapped in the United States Environmental Protection Agency National Hydrography Dataset NHDPlus, and not on natural lands mapped by the United States Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, existing Vegetation CALVEG, or best available science.

(4) The development on the proposed parcel would not require the demolition or alteration of either of the following types of housing:

(A) Housing that is subject to a recorded covenant, ordinance, or law that restricts rents to levels affordable to persons and families of moderate, low, or very low income, as defined in Sections 50093 and 50105 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) Housing that is subject to any form of rent or price control through a public entity's valid exercise of its police power.

(5) The development on the proposed parcel would not require the demolition of a historic structure that was placed on a national or state historic register.

(6) (A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the proposed parcel is included in the applicable region's sustainable communities strategy as a priority development area or is a climate-smart parcel.

(B) If the parcel is included in the applicable region's sustainable communities strategy as a priority development area or is part of a master environmental impact report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), meets one of the mobility indicators defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), and the proposed development would not be eligible for ministerial approval under Section 65913.4 because it does not meet the requirements of subparagraph (5) of subdivision (a) of that section, then it shall be treated ~~it shall be treated~~ as a climate-smart parcel for purposes of this section.

(7) If the proposed housing development is ____ units or more, the development proponent certifies to the locality that it will comply with the requirements of Section 65912.130 or 65912.131 of the Government Code.

(8) The proposed development dedicates a minimum of ____ percent of the total number of units, before calculating any density bonus, to deed-restricted affordable housing.

(c) (1) If a local agency determines that a development submitted pursuant to this section is consistent with the objective planning standards specified in subdivision (b) and pursuant to paragraph (3), it shall approve the development. If a local agency determines that a development submitted pursuant to this section is in conflict with any of the objective planning standards specified in subdivision (b), it shall provide the development proponent written documentation of which standard or standards the development conflicts with, and an explanation for the reason or reasons the development conflicts with that standard or standards, as follows:

(A) Within 60 days of submittal of the development to the local agency pursuant to this section if the development contains 150 or fewer housing units.

(B) Within 90 days of submittal of the development to the local agency pursuant to this section if the development contains more than 150 housing units.

(2) If the local agency fails to provide the required documentation pursuant to paragraph (1), the development shall be deemed to satisfy the objective planning standards specified in subdivision (b).

(3) For purposes of this section, a development is consistent with the objective planning standards specified in subdivision (b) if there is substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the development is consistent with the objective planning standards. The local agency shall not determine that a

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development, including an application for a modification under subdivision (b), is in conflict with the objective planning standards on the basis that application materials are not included, if the application contains substantial evidence that would allow a reasonable person to conclude that the development is consistent with the objective planning standards.

(d) (1) (A) A development proponent may request a modification to a development that has been approved under the streamlined, ministerial approval process provided in subdivision (c) if that request is submitted to the local agency before the issuance of the final building permit required for construction of the development.

(B) Except as provided in paragraph (3), the local agency shall approve a modification if it determines that the modification is consistent with the objective planning standards specified in subdivision (b) that were in effect when the original development application was first submitted.

(C) The local agency shall evaluate any modifications requested pursuant to this subdivision for consistency with the objective planning standards using the same assumptions and analytical methodology that the local agency originally used to assess consistency for the development that was approved for streamlined, ministerial approval pursuant to subdivision (c).

(D) A guideline that was adopted or amended by the department pursuant to subdivision (f) after a development was approved through the streamlined, ministerial approval process described in subdivision (c) shall not be used as a basis to deny proposed modifications.

(2) Upon receipt of the development proponent's application requesting a modification, the local agency shall determine if the requested modification is consistent with the objective planning standard and either approve or deny the modification request within 60 days after submission of the modification, or within 90 days if design review is required.

(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the local agency may apply objective planning standards adopted after the development application was first submitted to the requested modification in any of the following instances:

(A) The development is revised such that the total number of residential units or total square footage of construction changes by 15 percent or more. The calculation of the square footage of construction changes shall not include underground space.

(B) The development is revised such that the total number of residential units or total square footage of construction changes by 5 percent or more and it is necessary to subject the development to an objective standard beyond those in effect when the development application was submitted in order to mitigate or avoid a specific, adverse impact, as that term is defined in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (j) of Section 65589.5, upon the public health or safety and there is no feasible alternative method to satisfactorily mitigate or avoid the adverse impact. The calculation of the square footage of construction changes shall not include underground space.

(C) Objective building standards contained in the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations), including, but not limited to, building plumbing, electrical, fire, and grading codes, may be applied to all modification applications that are submitted prior to the first building permit application. Those standards may be applied to modification applications submitted after the first building permit application if agreed to by the development proponent.

(4) The local agency's review of a modification request pursuant to this subdivision shall be strictly limited to determining whether the modification, including any modification to previously approved density bonus concessions or waivers, modify the development's consistency with the objective planning standards and shall not reconsider prior determinations that are not affected by the modification.

(e) (1) For ~~multifamily~~ housing developments *that consist of multiple units* on a climate-smart parcel that are submitted pursuant to this section, the following shall apply:

(A) A local agency shall not ~~require~~ *impose* a setback greater than four feet from the side, rear, and front lot lines.

~~(B) The height limit applicable to the housing development shall not exceed 50 feet, unless the base density allows a greater height, in which case the larger of the two shall be used.~~

(B) A local agency shall not impose a height limit on a housing development that is less than 50 feet.

(C) ~~The A~~ local agency shall not impose ~~requirements that preclude a development project that has~~ a maximum lot coverage ~~of 60 percent~~. *applicable to the housing development of less than 60 percent.*

(D) ~~The A~~ local agency shall not impose or enforce a minimum parking requirement.

(E) Depending on the number of mobility ~~indicators~~ *indicators*, the local agency shall ~~impose the following floor area ratios:~~ *not do any of the following:*

(i) For a housing development project on a parcel with one mobility indicator, *impose* a floor area ratio that is less than 1.0.

(ii) For a housing development project on a parcel with two mobility indicators, *impose* a floor area ratio that is less than 1.25.

(iii) For a housing development project on a parcel with all three mobility indicators, *impose* a floor area ratio that is less than 1.5.

(2) A development proposed pursuant to this section shall be eligible for a density bonus, incentives or concessions, waivers or reductions of development standards, and parking ratios pursuant to Section 65915.

(3) A local agency may impose objective zoning standards, objective subdivision standards, and objective design review standards that do not conflict with this section. However, the local agency shall not do the following:

(A) Impose standards that would have the effect of physically precluding the construction of projects that meet or exceed the density standards described in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) of Section 65583.2.

(B) Adopt or impose any requirement that applies to a development project solely or partially on the basis that the project is eligible to receive streamlined, ministerial review pursuant to this section, including, but not limited to, increased fees or inclusionary housing requirements.

(f) The Department of Housing and Community Development may review, adopt, amend, and repeal guidelines, rules, and regulations to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, or standards set forth in this section.

SEC. 4. Chapter 4.3.1 (commencing with Section 65918.5) is added to Division 1 of Title 7 of the Government Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4.3.1. Density, Subdivisions, and Utilities on Climate Resilient, Risk, and Refugia Lands

65918.5. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) "Climate resilient lands" means lands that are not existing communities and that are not excluded lands.

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(b) "Climate risk lands" mean lands within climate resilient lands that have been identified as lands within very high and high fire severity zones, lands identified as flood zones, or lands identified as having a sea level rise risk *of five feet* according to the latest science.

(c) "Climate refugia lands" means lands within Terrestrial Connectivity categories 3, 4, and 5 of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Area of Conservation Emphasis.

(d) "Existing communities" means the following:

(1) For incorporated areas, lands within municipal boundaries as of January 1, 2024.

(2) For unincorporated areas, an urbanized area or urban cluster, as designated by the United States Census Bureau.

(e) "Excluded lands" are lands that meet one of the following criteria:

(1) Parcels with vested rights.

(2) Lands within specific plans with an environmental impact report adopted on or before January 1, 2024.

(3) Lands zoned for agriculture, rural, or rangeland ~~succession reasons~~ to accommodate agricultural workforce that result in uses that remain accessory to the primary use.

(f) "Planned density" means the density of housing that is planned for the land or parcel, as set on January 1, 2024, in the county's general plan.

65918.5.01. The Legislature finds and declares that the purpose of this chapter is to protect the public health and safety by preserving high value natural and working lands for the benefit of climate resilience, equitable access to open space, biodiversity, wildlife corridors, and food security.

65918.5.02. (a) Notwithstanding any law, a county shall not increase the planned density on climate resilient lands unless the planning requirements or conditions set forth in Section 65918.5.03 are met.

(b) Notwithstanding any law, a county shall not approve any tentative, final, or parcel maps pursuant to Division 2 (commencing with Section 66410) for the subdivision of property within climate risk lands or climate refugia lands unless the planning requirements or conditions set forth in Section 65918.5.03 are met.

(c) Notwithstanding any law, a county shall not approve an extension of water or sewer services on climate resilient lands unless the planning requirements or conditions set forth in Section 65918.5.03 are met or the extension of these services are to meet public health and safety requirements for existing residents.

(d) This section does not apply to a town or existing community that has a population fewer than 5,000, is unincorporated, and ____.

65918.5.03. A county is not subject to Section 65918.5.02 if *all of* the following planning requirements ~~or~~ *and* conditions are met:

(a) The county has a housing element that is approved by the Department of Housing and Community Development.

(b) The county's board of supervisors makes a finding, based on a preponderance of the evidence, of housing necessity.

(c) Following the finding in subdivision (b), the county's board of supervisors does the following:

(1) Amends its general plan, pursuant to procedures required by law, including Article 6 (commencing with Section 65350), to increase the planned density on climate resilient lands, to authorize the subdivision of property within climate risk lands or climate refugia lands, or to authorize the extension of water or sewer services on climate resilient lands, as applicable.

(2) In addition to notice required by Article 6 (commencing with Section 65350), provides at least 30 days' notice of the public hearing on the proposed amendments to the general plan to the owners of properties adjacent to the area affected by the proposed planned density increase, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer services, as applicable, to the applicable local agency formation commission, to any city in whose sphere of influence the proposed planned density increase, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer services, as applicable, is located, and any other party that requests notice from the county by submitting their name and contact information with the county clerk.

(3) Makes, in conjunction with the amendment of the general plan, *all of* the following findings:

(A) The proposed development requiring the increase in planned density, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer services is necessary to comply with state housing requirements, as confirmed by the Office of Planning and Research.

(B) The parcels requiring the increase in planned density, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer service, as applicable, will not exceed the minimum area necessary to comply with state housing law, as confirmed by the Office of Planning and Research.

(C) The proposed development requiring an increase in planned density, subdivision of property, or extension of water or sewer service is immediately adjacent to developed areas and housing proponent has provided evidence to the county that the county's departments, any applicable community services districts, and any other districts providing utilities or services to the relevant parcel have adequate capacity to accommodate the proposed development for the succeeding 30 years. For purposes of this subparagraph, the county's departments and other districts providing utilities and services include, but are not limited to, the fire department, sheriff's department, public works department, water and sewer districts, and school districts.

(D) There is no other existing residential or commercial property available to accommodate the proposed development on lands outside of climate resilient lands and it is not feasible to accommodate the proposed development by redesignating lands outside of climate resilient lands, as confirmed by the Office of Planning and Research.

65918.5.04. Notwithstanding any law, any land that is subject to Section 65918.5.02 that is annexed by a city after January 1, 2024, shall still be subject to the prohibitions of this chapter unless it is an excluded land. For purposes of land that is subject to this section, references in this chapter to "county" shall also refer to the city that annexed the land.

SEC. 5. Section 66425.5 is added to the Government Code, to read:

66425.5. Notwithstanding any law, a county shall not approve any tentative, final, or parcel maps for the subdivision of property pursuant to this division unless the planning requirements or conditions set forth in Section 65918.5.03 are met for the affected parcels.

SEC. 6. The Legislature finds and declares that the provision of adequate housing, in light of the severe shortage of housing at all income levels in this state, and the preservation of high value natural and working lands are matters of statewide concern and are not municipal affairs as that term is used in Section 5 of Article XI of the California Constitution. Therefore, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5 of this act amending Section 65585 of, adding Sections 65914.7.5 and 66425.5 to, and adding Chapter 4.3.1 (commencing with Section 65918.5) to Division 1 of Title 7 of, the Government Code applies to all cities, including charter cities.

SEC. 7. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because a local agency or school district has the authority to levy service charges, fees, or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code.

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AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
MARCH 09, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 805

Introduced by Assembly Member Arambula

February 13, 2023

An act to amend Sections 116682 and 116686 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to drinking water.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 805, as amended, Arambula. Drinking ~~water consolidation:~~ *water consolidation: sewer service.*

Existing law, the California Safe Drinking Water Act, provides for the operation of public water systems and imposes on the State Water Resources Control Board various responsibilities and duties. The act authorizes the state board to order consolidation with, or extension of service from, a receiving water system in either of the following circumstances: (1) a public water system or state small water system, serving a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, or is an at-risk water system, or ~~(2)~~ (2) a disadvantaged community, in whole or in part, is substantially reliant on domestic wells that consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, or are at-risk domestic wells.

This bill would authorize the state board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities, including, but not limited to, consulting with the relevant regional water board and the receiving water system and conducting outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the receiving and subsumed water systems, as provided.

Existing law authorizes the state board, if sufficient funds are available, to contract with, or provide a grant to, an administrator to provide administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services, or any combination of these services to a designated water system to assist with the provision of an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.

The bill would also authorize the state board to require the administrator to provide administrative, technical, legal, or managerial services for any sewer service provided by the designated water system.

~~This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to authorize the board to order consolidation of wastewater.~~

Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: ~~no~~yes Local Program: no

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *Section 116682 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:*

116682. (a) (1) The state board, in circumstances described in subparagraph (A) or (B), may order consolidation with a receiving water system as provided in this section and Section 116684. The consolidation may be physical or operational. The state board may also order the extension of service to an area within a disadvantaged community that does not have access to an adequate supply of safe drinking water so long as the extension of service is an interim extension of service in preparation for consolidation. The consolidation shall occur within six months of the initiation of the extension of service. The state board may set timelines and performance measures to facilitate completion of consolidation.

(A) A public water system or a state small water system, serving a disadvantaged community, consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, or is an at-risk water system.

(B) A disadvantaged community, in whole or in part, is substantially reliant on domestic wells that consistently fail to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water, or are at-risk domestic wells.

(2) No later than July 1, 2020, the state board shall develop and adopt a policy that provides a process by which members of a disadvantaged community may petition the state board to consider ordering consolidation. The state board shall adopt the policy in a policy handbook consistent with the process provided for in

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subdivision (a) of Section 116760.43.

(b) Before ordering consolidation or extension of service as provided in this section, the state board shall do all of the following:

(1) Encourage voluntary consolidation or extension of service.

(2) Consider other enforcement remedies specified in this article.

(3) Consult with, and fully consider input from, the relevant local agency formation commission regarding the provision of water service in the affected area, the recommendations for improving service in a municipal service review, whether the consolidation or extension of service is cost effective, and any other relevant information.

(4) Consult with, and fully consider input from, the Public Utilities Commission when the consolidation would involve a water corporation subject to the commission's jurisdiction. If a receiving water system is regulated by the Public Utilities Commission, the state board shall inform the commission at least 60 days before the consolidation order, and upon issuance of the order the commission shall open a proceeding to determine cost allocation, ratemaking, and commission public participation requirements for the consolidation process.

(5) Consult with, and fully consider input from, the local government with land use planning authority over the affected area, particularly regarding any information in the general plan required by Section 65302.10 of the Government Code.

(6) Consult with, and fully consider input from, the potentially receiving water system and all public water systems in the chain of distribution of the potentially receiving water system. The input from the potentially receiving water system may include, but is not limited to, information related to the classification of the potentially subsumed water system as an at-risk water system or a state small water system or of at-risk domestic wells.

(7) Consult with, and fully consider input from, any groundwater sustainability agency in a basin that provides groundwater supply, in whole or in part, to the affected area.

(8) (A) Notify the potentially receiving water system and the potentially subsumed water system, if any, and establish a reasonable deadline of no less than six months, unless a shorter period is justified, for the potentially receiving water system and the potentially subsumed water system, if any, to negotiate consolidation or another means of providing an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

(B) During this period, the state board shall provide technical assistance and work with the potentially receiving water system and the potentially subsumed water system to develop a financing package that benefits both the receiving water system and the subsumed water system.

(C) Upon a showing of good cause, the deadline may be extended by the state board at the request of the potentially receiving water system, potentially subsumed water system, the local agency formation commission with jurisdiction over the potentially subsumed water system, or the Public Utilities Commission.

(9) Consider the affordability of the anticipated monthly rates for drinking water service to residential customers of the potentially subsumed water system.

(10) (A) Hold at least one public meeting at the initiation of this process in a place as close as feasible to the affected areas. The state board shall make reasonable efforts to provide a 30-day notice of the meeting to the ratepayers, renters, and property owners to receive water service through service extension or in the area of the subsumed water system and all affected local government agencies and drinking water service providers. The 30-day notice shall include information about water quality concerns in the area, relevant information about health effects of water contaminants, and information about opportunities for consolidation or extension of service to address water quality issues. The meeting shall provide representatives of the potentially subsumed water system, affected ratepayers, renters, property owners, the potentially receiving water system, and the public an opportunity to present oral and written comments.

(B) The state board shall provide an opportunity to submit comments by mail or electronically during the notice period and for at least one week after the meeting.

(C) The state board shall review comments received during the meeting and received by mail and electronically during the notice period and for one week after the public meeting.

(11) If the potentially subsumed water system to be consolidated into the receiving water system is an at-risk water system, the state board shall do all of the following:

(A) Conduct outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the at-risk water system, including identifiable local community groups. These outreach efforts shall gauge community support for consolidation of the at-risk water system. The state board shall consider the results of this outreach when deciding whether to order consolidation of the at-risk water system.

(B) Consider any petition submitted pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) by members of a disadvantaged community served by the at-risk water system.

(C) (i) If the potentially subsumed water system contends during the initial written comment period set forth in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (10) that it is not an at-risk water system, the state board shall consider during a public meeting any information provided by the potentially subsumed water system in support of its contention that it is not an at-risk water system.

(ii) The state board shall make reasonable efforts to provide a 30-day notice of the public meeting described in clause (i) to the ratepayers, renters, and property owners to receive water service through service extension or in the area of the subsumed water system and all affected local government agencies and drinking water service providers.

(c) If a consolidation or other means of providing an adequate supply of safe drinking water has not been negotiated by the potentially receiving water system and the potentially subsumed water system before the expiration of the deadline set by the state board pursuant to paragraph (8) of subdivision (b), the state board shall do the following:

(1) Consult with the potentially receiving water system and the potentially subsumed water system, if any.

(2) (A) If the consolidation has not concluded within six months following the first public meeting held pursuant to paragraph (10) of subdivision (b), conduct a public meeting in a location as close as feasible to the affected communities. The meeting shall be held after the state board has made the findings described in subdivision (d).

(B) The state board shall make reasonable efforts to provide a 30-day notice of the meeting to the ratepayers, renters, property owners to receive water service through service extension or in the area of the subsumed water system, and the public, and to all affected local government agencies and drinking water service providers.

(C) The meeting shall provide representatives of the potentially subsumed water system, affected ratepayers, renters, property owners, and the potentially receiving water system an opportunity to present oral and written comments.

(D) The meeting shall provide an opportunity for public comment.

(3) The state board shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that a receiving water system and a subsumed water system are informed on a regular basis of progress regarding actions taken pursuant to this section.

(d) Before ordering consolidation or extension of service, the state board shall find all of the following:

(1) The potentially subsumed water system has consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water or it is at risk of doing so, as determined by the state board.

(2) Reasonable efforts to negotiate *voluntary* consolidation or extension of service were made.

(3) Consolidation of the receiving water system and subsumed water system or extension of service is appropriate and technically and economically feasible. In making this finding, the state board shall consider how many owners of dwelling units served by domestic wells in the service area have provided, or are likely to provide, written consent to extension of service. The state board need not find that any specific percentage of the owners of dwelling units served by domestic wells in the service area are likely to consent to the consolidation or extension of service to serve their dwelling unit.

(4) There is no pending local agency formation commission process that is likely to resolve the problem in a reasonable amount of time.

(5) Concerns regarding water rights and water contracts of the subsumed and receiving water systems have been adequately addressed.

(6) Consolidation or extension of service is an effective and cost-effective means to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

(7) The capacity of the proposed interconnection needed to accomplish the consolidation is limited to serving the current customers of the subsumed water system, infill sites within the community served by the subsumed water system, residents of disadvantaged communities in existence as of the date of consolidation and that are located along the service line connecting the subsumed water system and the receiving water system, and vacant lots within the community served by the subsumed water system that are zoned to allow residential use and have no more than one other vacant lot between that parcel and an infill parcel, including capacity needed for services such as firefighting.

(e) Upon ordering consolidation or extension of service, the state board shall do all of the following:

(1) As necessary and appropriate, as determined by the state board, compensate the receiving water system for any capacity lost as a result of the consolidation or extension of service either by paying the water system's capacity charge set out in the water system's adopted rate structure or by providing additional capacity needed as a result of the consolidation or extension of service, and by paying legal fees. When the receiving water system is compensated for capacity lost by payment of a capacity charge, the capacity charge shall be paid only to the extent that it does not exceed the reasonable cost of providing the service in accordance with Section 66013 of the Government Code. If capacity beyond what is needed for consolidation is provided by a project funded through the state board, the state board shall retain an option to use that capacity for future consolidations, without paying additional capacity charges, for five years, unless it releases that option in writing. Funding pursuant to this paragraph is available for the general purpose of providing financial assistance for the infrastructure needed for the consolidation or extension of service and does not need to be specific to each individual consolidation project. The state board shall provide appropriate financial assistance for the water infrastructure needed for the consolidation or extension of service. The state board's existing financial assistance guidelines and policies shall be the basis for the financial assistance.

(2) Ensure payment of standard local agency formation commission fees caused by state board-ordered consolidation or extension of service.

(3) Adequately compensate the owners of a privately owned subsumed water system for the fair market value of the system, as determined by the Public Utilities Commission or the state board.

(4) Coordinate with the appropriate local agency formation commission and other relevant local agencies to facilitate the change of organization or reorganization.

(5) If ordering consolidation or extension of service between two water systems, consider any existing domestic wells within the service area that could also be subject to consolidation or extension of service pursuant to this section.

(6) If ordering consolidation or extension of service to a community containing residences served by domestic wells, promptly take all reasonable steps to obtain written consent to the consolidation or extension of service from an owner of each residence served by a domestic well.

(f) If funds are appropriated for this purpose, the state board may make funds available for the purposes of subdivision (e), as necessary and appropriate, to the receiving water system, the subsumed water system, or an administrator providing full oversight of construction or development projects related to a consolidation or extension of service.

(g) (1) For purposes of this section, fees, charges, and terms and conditions that may be imposed on new and existing customers of a receiving water system shall be subject to the following limitations:

(A) The consolidated water system shall not increase charges on existing customers of the receiving water system solely as a consequence of the consolidation or extension of service unless the customers receive a corresponding benefit.

(B) Except as provided in paragraph (2), fees or charges imposed on a customer of a subsumed water system shall not exceed the costs of the service.

(C) Except as provided in paragraph (2), the receiving water system shall not charge any fees to, or place conditions on, customers of the subsumed water system that it does not charge to, or impose on, new customers that are not subject to the consolidation with the receiving water system.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1), if costs incurred by the receiving water system in completing the consolidation or extension of service are not otherwise recoverable as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, the receiving water system may charge fees to customers of the subsumed water system to recover those costs.

(B) A receiving water system shall not charge a fee pursuant to subparagraph (A) for costs that are otherwise recoverable from the state, the federal government, programs administered by local agencies, parties responsible for causing contamination that the consolidation or extension of service is designed to address, or other sources, as determined by the state board.

(h) The state board shall not, pursuant to this section, fund public works or upgrades unrelated to the delivery of an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water, including, but not limited to, the installation of streetlights, sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. A local agency's decision whether to provide these public works or upgrades shall not delay the consolidation or extension of service.

(i) When a public water system is operated by a local educational agency, the state board may order a receiving water system to consolidate or extend service to a public water system operated by a local educational agency pursuant to this section if both the following additional conditions are met:

(1) The local educational agency serves students from one or more census blocks that are disadvantaged communities.

(2) The state board obtains a written determination from the local educational agency that the state board's analysis in the financing package, developed pursuant to subparagraph (B) of paragraph (8) of subdivision (b), indicates that consolidating or extending service would not result in additional unacceptable costs to the local educational agency and would result in safe drinking water being available to the local educational agency.

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(j) An order pursuant to this section shall not require consolidation or extension of service to a residence served solely by a domestic well until an owner of the affected residence provides written consent to the consolidation or extension of service. Any domestic well owner within the consolidation or extended service area that does not provide written consent shall be ineligible, until the consent is provided, for any future water-related grant funding from the state other than funding to mitigate a well failure, disaster, or other emergency.

(k) A finding that a disadvantaged community, in whole or in part, is substantially reliant on at-risk domestic wells shall be based on the maps created pursuant to paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 116772 and inspection or testing of the domestic wells showing an imminent risk of failing to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water.

(l) The state board may prioritize consolidation of an at-risk water system that has historically been overburdened by pollution and industrial development or faced other environmental justice hurdles.

(m) Division 3 (commencing with Section 56000) of Title 5 of the Government Code does not apply to an action taken by the state board pursuant to this section.

(n) If sufficient funding is available, the state board may order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water pursuant to this section, when both the subsumed water system and receiving water system provide sewer service, after doing all of the following:

(1) Consulting with, and fully considering input from, the relevant regional water board.

(2) Consulting with, and fully considering input from, the receiving water system.

(3) Conducting outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the receiving water system and subsumed water system, including identifiable local community groups. These outreach efforts shall gauge community support for consolidation of the subsumed water system. The state board shall consider the results of this outreach when deciding whether to order consolidation of the sewer services of the subsumed water system.

SEC. 2. *Section 116686 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:*

^{116686.} (a) (1) To provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water to disadvantaged communities, voluntary participants, and public water systems that have demonstrated difficulty in maintaining technical, managerial, and financial capacity and to prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, the state board may do any of the following, if sufficient funding is available:

(A) (i) Contract with, or provide a grant to, an administrator to provide administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services, or any combination of those services, to a designated water system to assist the designated water system with the provision of an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water, which services may include steps necessary to enable consolidation.

(ii) To fulfill the requirements of this section, the state board may contract with more than one administrator, but only one administrator may be assigned to provide services to a given designated water system.

(iii) An administrator may provide services to more than one designated water system.

(B) Order a designated water system to accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services, including full management and control of all aspects of the designated water system, from an administrator selected by the state board.

(C) Order a designated water system to accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services from an administrator appointed by the state board for full oversight of construction or development projects related to a consolidation or extension of service, including, but not limited to, accepting loans and grants issued by the state board and entering into contracts on behalf of the designated water system.

(2) In performing its duties pursuant to paragraph (1), the state board may use criteria from the handbook adopted pursuant to subdivision (g).

(3) When contracting with, or ordering a designated water system to accept, an administrator pursuant to paragraph (1), the state board may also require the administrator to provide administrative, technical, legal, or managerial services for any sewer service provided by the designated water system.

(b) Unless the state board has already held a public meeting pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 116682, the state board shall do all of the following to determine that a public water system or state small water system is a designated water system:

(1) Provide the public water system or state small water system with notice and an opportunity to show either of the following:

(A) That the public water system or state small water system has neither consistently failed to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water nor is it an at-risk water system.

(B) That the public water system or state small water system has taken steps to timely address its failure to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water and that it is not an at-risk water system.

(2) (A) Conduct a public meeting in a location as close as feasible to the affected community.

(B) The state board shall make reasonable efforts to provide a 30-day notice of the public meeting to affected ratepayers, renters, and property owners.

(C) The state board shall provide representatives of the public water system or state small water system, affected ratepayers, renters, and property owners with an opportunity to present oral and written comments at the public meeting.

(D) The state board shall provide at the meeting an opportunity for public comment.

(3) Provide the public with an opportunity to submit comments by mail or electronically during the 30-day notice period and for at least one week after the public meeting described in paragraph (2).

(4) If the public water system is operated by a local educational agency, obtain the local educational agency's agreement, in writing, to the appointment of an administrator.

(c) The state board shall make financial assistance available to an administrator of a designated water system, as appropriate and to the extent that funding is available.

(d) The authority granted to an administrator by the state board pursuant to subdivision (a) may include, but shall not be limited to, the authority to do all of the following:

(1) Expend available moneys for capital infrastructure improvements that the designated water system needs to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water or to execute a consolidation ordered pursuant to Section 116682.

(2) Set and collect user water rates and fees, subject to approval by the state board. The state board shall consider affordability when approving water rates and fees. The provisions of this section are subject to all applicable constitutional requirements, including Article XIII D of the California Constitution.

ATTACHMENT A

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- (3) Expend available moneys for operation and maintenance costs of the designated water system.
- (4) Expend available moneys necessary to achieve consolidation, including conducting feasibility or planning studies, or addressing outstanding technical or legal issues.
- (e) The state board shall work with the administrator of a designated water system and the communities served by that designated water system to develop, within the shortest practicable time, adequate technical, managerial, and financial capacity to deliver an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water so that the services of the administrator are no longer necessary.
- (f) A designated water system shall not be responsible for any costs associated with an administrator that are higher than the costs necessary to maintain the designated water system and provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking ~~water.~~ *water or provision of sewer service.*
- (g) Before ordering a designated water system to accept administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services from an administrator pursuant to subdivision (a), the state board shall develop standards, terms, and procedures in a handbook adopted consistent with the process provided for in subdivision (a) of Section 116760.43 for all of the following:
- (1) Ensuring compliance with subdivision (f).
 - (2) Providing opportunity for public comment on the selection of an administrator and the services to be provided.
 - (3) Providing public access to budgets, ownership and financial information, and other documents and records related to the provision of water service to the designated water system or affected residences and to the management of the designated water system by the administrator.
 - (4) Providing regular public meetings, notifications, opportunities for public comment, and other forms of engagement with customers of the designated water system for significant decisions or actions made on behalf of the designated water system, including, but not limited to, establishing operating budgets, altering water rates, adopting system policies, entering into long-term contracts or financing commitments, and developing system projects or plans.
 - (5) Formal requests to the state board to reverse or modify a decision of an administrator or to request substitution of an administrator.
 - (6) Ensuring an administrator acts in the best interests of the community served.
 - (7) Development and approval of a post-administrator drinking water service plan to ensure compliance with subdivision (e). Development of the plan shall include, but is not limited to, an evaluation of long-term public governance or community ownership options.
- (h) An administrator appointed pursuant to this section for a designated water system shall not be liable for claims by past or existing ratepayers, or those who consumed water provided through the designated water system, if good faith, reasonable effort, and ordinary care were used by the administrator to assume possession of, or to operate, the designated water system.
- (i) An administrator appointed pursuant to this section for a designated water system shall not be liable for claims by past or existing ratepayers, or those who consumed water provided through the designated water system, for any injury or damages that occurred before the commencement of the operation period.
- (j) This section does not limit or supersede any other law authorizing claims against the state board or providing a defense to liability, and shall not be construed to create any new or expanded basis for liability.
- (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do any of the following:
- (1) Relieve a water district, water wholesaler, or any other entity from complying with any provision of federal or state law, including those pertaining to drinking water quality.
 - (2) Impair any cause of action by the Attorney General, a district attorney, a city attorney, or other public prosecutor, or impair any other action or proceeding brought by, or on behalf of, a regulatory agency.
 - (3) Impair any claim alleging the taking of property without compensation within the meaning of either the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution or Section 19 of Article I of the California Constitution.
 - (4) Relieve any person or entity from liability for action or inaction in bad faith, or without reasonable effort or ordinary care.
- (l) Nothing in this section shall absolve, indemnify, or protect a prior operator, designated water system, or individual from liability based on an act or failure to act prior to the operation period.
- (m) Administrative and managerial contracts pursuant to this section shall be exempt from Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 10290) of Part 2 of Division 2 of the Public Contract Code and may be awarded on a noncompetitive bid basis as necessary to implement the purposes of this section.
- (n) For purposes of this section, a local government, as defined in Article XIII C of the California Constitution, that sets water rates in accordance with Article XIII D of the California Constitution shall be deemed to be providing affordable water.
- (o) This section does not apply to a charter city, charter county, or charter city and county.
- (p) (1) For purposes of this section, an administrator is authorized to act on behalf of an affected residence to the same extent, and in the same manner, as a designated water system with the consent of the affected residence.
- (2) For purposes of this section, where an administrator is authorized to act on behalf of a designated public water system, it may also act on behalf of a voluntary participant.
- (q) The Legislature finds and declares that the funding provided to a state small water system, affected residence, public water system, voluntary participant, or administrator for purposes of this section serves a public purpose and does not constitute a gift of public funds within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XVI of the California Constitution.
- (r) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the following meanings:
- (1) "Administrator" means a person whom the state board has determined is competent to perform the administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services required for purposes of this section, pursuant to criteria set forth in the handbook adopted pursuant to subdivision (g). Notwithstanding any other law, a privately owned public utility may serve as an administrator for purposes of this section.
 - (2) "Designated water system" means any of the following:
 - (A) A public water system or state small water system that has been ordered to consolidate pursuant to Section 116682.

(B) A public water system or state small water system that serves a disadvantaged community and that the state board finds consistently fails to provide an adequate supply of affordable, safe drinking water.

(C) An at-risk water system.

(3) "Voluntary participant" means the owner of a domestic well or state small water system who has agreed to accept financial assistance pursuant to Chapter 4.6 (commencing with Section 116765) for the provision of an adequate and affordable supply of safe drinking water.

~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enact subsequent legislation to authorize the State Water Resources Control Board to order consolidation of wastewater.~~

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AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
MARCH 16, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 817

Introduced by Assembly Member Pacheco
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Wilson)

February 13, 2023

An act to ~~amend Section 54950 of the Government Code, relating to local government.~~ add Section 54953.05 to the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 817, as amended, Pacheco. ~~Local government: open meetings.~~ *Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.*

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, ~~requires~~ *requires, with specified exceptions*, each legislative body of a local agency to provide notice of the time and place for its regular meetings and an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted. The act also requires that all meetings of a legislative body be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend unless a closed session is authorized. *The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Existing law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.*

Existing law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

Existing law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body.

This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

~~This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to a provision of the Ralph M. Brown Act.~~

Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *Section 54953.05 is added to the Government Code, to read:*

ATTACHMENT A

54953.05. (a) (1) The definitions in Section 54953, as that section may be amended from time to time, apply for purposes of this section.

(2) For purposes of this section, "subsidiary body" means a legislative body that meets all of the following:

(A) Is described in subdivision (b) of Section 54952.

(B) Serves exclusively in an advisory capacity.

(C) Is not authorized to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements.

(b) A subsidiary body may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 54953, if the subsidiary body complies with all of the following:

(1) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the subsidiary body.

(2) Each member of the subsidiary body shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The subsidiary body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the subsidiary body:

(A) A two-way audiovisual platform.

(B) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(4) The subsidiary body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(5) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the subsidiary body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(6) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the subsidiary body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option or via an internet-based service option.

(7) In the event of a disruption that prevents the subsidiary body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the subsidiary body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the subsidiary body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the subsidiary body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(8) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the subsidiary body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(9) The subsidiary body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the subsidiary body and offer comment in real time.

(A) A subsidiary body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to paragraph (8), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(B) A subsidiary body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to paragraph (8), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(C) A subsidiary body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to paragraph (8), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(c) In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section, the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action shall make the following findings by majority vote before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing pursuant to this section for the first time, and every 12 months thereafter:

(1) The legislative body has considered the circumstances of the subsidiary body.

(2) Teleconference meetings of the subsidiary body would enhance public access to meetings of the subsidiary body.

(3) Teleconference meetings of the subsidiary body would promote the attraction, retention, and diversity of subsidiary body members.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 54953.05 to the Government Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 54953.05 to the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

This act is necessary to provide opportunities for public participation in meetings of specified public agencies and to promote the attraction and retention of members of those agencies.

~~SECTION 1. Section 54950 of the Government Code is amended to read:~~

~~54950. (a) In enacting this chapter, the Legislature finds and declares that the public commissions, boards, councils, and the other public agencies in this state exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business. It is the intent of the law that their actions be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly.~~

~~(b) The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies that serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed, so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created.~~

ATTACHMENT A

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AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
MARCH 23, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 1379

Introduced by Assembly Member Papan

February 17, 2023

An act to amend ~~Section 53909~~ of and repeal Section 54953 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1379, as amended, Papan. ~~Local agencies: financial affairs.~~ *Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.*

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend unless a closed session is authorized. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Existing law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

This bill, with respect to those general provisions on teleconferencing, would require a legislative body electing to use teleconferencing to instead post agendas at a singular designated physical meeting location, as defined, rather than at all teleconference locations. The bill would remove the requirements for the legislative body of the local agency to identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, and that at least a quorum of the members participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. The bill would instead provide that, for purposes of establishing a quorum of the legislative body, members of the body may participate remotely, at the designated physical location, or at both the designated physical meeting location and remotely. The bill would require the legislative body to have at least 2 meetings per year in which the legislative body's members are in person at a singular designated physical meeting location.

Existing law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing provisions without complying with the general teleconferencing requirements that agendas be posted at each teleconference, that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda, and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction. Under existing law, these alternative teleconferencing provisions require the legislative body to provide at least one of 2 specified means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting. Under existing law, these alternative teleconferencing provisions authorize a member to participate remotely if the member is participating remotely for just cause, limited to twice per year, or due to emergency circumstances, contingent upon a request to, and action by, the legislative body, as prescribed. Existing law specifies that just cause includes travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

This bill would revise the alternative provisions, operative until January 1, 2026, to make these provisions operative indefinitely. The bill would delete the restriction that prohibits a member, based on just cause, from participating remotely for more than 2 meetings per calendar year. The bill would delete the requirement for the legislative body to provide at least one of 2 specified means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting. The bill would also delete a provision that requires a member participating remotely to publicly disclose at the meeting before action is taken whether there are individuals 18 years of age present in the room at the remote location and the general nature of the member's relationship to those individuals. The bill would further delete a provision that prohibits a member from participating remotely for a period of more than 3 consecutive months or 20% of the regular meetings within a calendar year, or more than 2 meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year. The bill would expand the definition of just cause to include travel related to a member of a legislative body's occupation. The bill would make related, conforming changes.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

~~Existing law requires that the officer of each local agency who has charge of the financial records furnish to the Controller a report of all the financial transactions of the local agency during the preceding fiscal year. If a local agency maintains an internet website, existing law requires that the local agency post information on the annual compensation of its elected officials, as specified.~~

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~~This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to that law.~~

Digest Key

Vote: majority Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: ~~no~~yes Local Program: ~~no~~yes

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. *Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:*

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) ~~(A) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d): the singular designated physical meeting location, as defined in subparagraph (B). Establishment of a quorum of a legislative body may include all of the following:~~

~~(i) A legislative body consisting of members participating remotely.~~

~~(ii) A legislative body consisting of members participating at the designated physical meeting location.~~

~~(iii) A legislative body consisting of members participating at the designated physical meeting location and members participating remotely.~~

~~(B) "Singular designated physical meeting location" means the location that is clearly identified on the agenda, is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body provides at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:~~

~~(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.~~

~~(ii) A two-way telephonic service.~~

~~(C) The legislative body shall have at least two meetings per calendar year in which the legislative body's members are in person at a singular designated physical meeting location.~~

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may also use teleconferencing ~~without complying in accordance~~ with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, ~~at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following: the legislative body complies with all of the following:~~

~~(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:~~

ATTACHMENT A

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~~(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.~~

~~(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.~~

~~(B)~~

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

~~(C)~~

(B) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

~~(D)~~

(C) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

~~(E)~~

(D) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

~~(F)~~

(E) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. ~~The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.~~

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

~~(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.~~

~~(C)~~

(B) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

~~(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.~~

(f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing members of the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.

(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (f).

(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local ~~agency~~: *agency, or travel related to a member of a legislative body's occupation.*

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (e), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(6) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(7) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

~~(8) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.~~

(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024, shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed: 2024.

SEC. 2. *Section 54953 of the Government Code, as added by Section 3 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is repealed.*

~~54953.(a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.~~

~~(b)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.~~

~~(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.~~

~~(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference location.~~

~~(4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.~~

~~(c)(1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.~~

~~(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.~~

~~(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.~~

~~(d)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.~~

~~(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.~~

~~(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.~~

~~(e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.~~

SEC. 3. *The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:*

By removing the requirement for agendas to be posted at all teleconference locations, and removing the requirement for members to publicly disclose whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with individuals before action is taken, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

SEC. 4. *The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which amends Section 54953 of the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:*

This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in teleconference meetings.

~~SECTION 1. Section 53908 of the Government Code is amended to read:~~

~~53908.(a) If a local agency, which is required to report to the Controller under Section 53891, maintains an internet website, it shall post, in a conspicuous location on its internet website, information on the annual compensation of its elected officials, officers, and employees that is submitted to the Controller under Section 53891.~~

~~(b) A local agency may comply with subdivision (a) by posting, in a conspicuous location on its internet website, a link to the Controller's Government Compensation in California internet website.~~

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ASSEMBLY
SEPTEMBER 05, 2023

AMENDED
IN
ASSEMBLY
AUGUST 14, 2023

AMENDED
IN
SENATE
APRIL 24, 2023

AMENDED
IN
SENATE
MARCH 22, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 537

Introduced by Senator Becker

February 14, 2023

An act to amend Section 54953 of, and to add and repeal Section 54953.4 of, the Government Code, relating to local government, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 537, as amended, Becker. Open meetings: multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies: teleconferences.

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Existing law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined.

Existing law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

Existing law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. These circumstances include if a member shows "just cause," including for a childcare or caregiving need of a relative that requires the member to participate remotely.

This bill would expand the circumstances of "just cause" to apply to the situation in which an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, or other specified relative requires the member to participate remotely.

The bill would authorize the legislative body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, as specified, to use alternate teleconferencing provisions if the eligible legislative body has adopted an authorizing resolution, as specified. The bill would also require the legislative body to provide a record of attendance *of the members of the legislative body, the number of community members in attendance in the teleconference meeting*, and the number of public comments on its internet website within ~~7~~ 10 days after a teleconference meeting, as specified. The bill would require at least a quorum of members of the legislative body to participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. The bill would require a member who receives compensation for their service, as specified, on the legislative body to participate from a physical location that is open to the public. The bill would require the legislative body to identify in the agenda each member who plans to participate remotely and to include the address of the publicly accessible building from which each member will participate via teleconference. The bill would prohibit a member from participating remotely pursuant to these provisions unless

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the remote location is the member's office or another location in a publicly accessible building and is more than 40 miles from the in-person location of the meeting. The bill would repeal these alternative teleconferencing provisions on January 1, 2026.

This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed by AB 557 to be operative only if this bill and AB 557 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Digest Key

Vote: 2/3 Appropriation: no Fiscal Committee: no Local Program: no

Bill Text

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (F), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:

(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.

(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

(D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis

or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

(g) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(h) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(i) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing members of the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(j) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.

(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).

(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

(E) An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely.

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (f), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(6) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(7) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(8) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

(9) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

(k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 1.5. *Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 1 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:*

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in ~~any~~ *either* of the following circumstances:

~~(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.~~

~~(B)~~

(A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

~~(C)~~

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph ~~(B); (A)~~, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F); (D)~~, to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F); (D)~~, or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.

(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph ~~(F); (D)~~, until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, ~~or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing~~, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than ~~30~~ 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph ~~(A); (B); or (C)~~ (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), and every ~~30~~ 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.

~~(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:~~

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(B) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.

~~(ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.~~

(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(f) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:

(i) A two-way audiovisual platform.

(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

(D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

(g) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(h) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(i) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing ~~members of~~ the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(j) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

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- (B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).
- (D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.
- (E) An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely.*

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (f), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).

(6) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(7) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(8) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

(9) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

(k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, ~~2024~~, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

- (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.
- (C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.
- (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d).

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

(A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:

- (i) A two-way audiovisual platform.
- (ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.

(B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.

(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.

(D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:

(A) One of the following circumstances applies:

(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.

(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.

(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.

(f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

(h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing members of the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.

(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.

(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (f).

(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.

(E) An immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely.

(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (e), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.

(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.

(5) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

(6) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.

(7) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.

(8) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.

(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024, shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 2.5. *Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 2 of Chapter 285 of the Statutes of 2022, is amended to read:*

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

(2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:

(A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.

(B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

(D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.

(3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in ~~subdivision (d): subdivisions (d) and (e).~~

(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

(2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.

(3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.

(d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

(2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.

(3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.

(e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with *the requirements of* paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) ~~if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following: if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in either of the following circumstances:~~

(A) The legislative body ~~shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:~~ *holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.*

~~(i) A two-way audiovisual platform;~~

~~(ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting;~~

(B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (A), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:

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~~(B)~~

(A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. *The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.*

~~(C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.~~

~~(D)~~

(B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

~~(E)~~

(C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

~~(F)~~

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

~~(2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:~~

~~(A) One of the following circumstances applies:~~

~~(i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.~~

~~(ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 4 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:~~

~~(I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.~~

~~(II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.~~

~~(B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.~~

~~(C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.~~

~~(3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.~~

~~(E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.~~

~~(ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (D), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.~~

~~(iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (D), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.~~

~~(3) If a state of emergency remains active, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:~~

~~(A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.~~

~~(B) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.~~

~~(4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.~~

(f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.

(g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.

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(h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

(2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing ~~members of~~ the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.

(i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

~~(1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.~~

~~(2) "Just cause" means any of the following:~~

~~(A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.~~

~~(B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.~~

~~(C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (f).~~

~~(D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.~~

~~(3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (e), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.~~

~~(4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.~~

~~(1) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).~~

~~(5)~~

~~(2) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.~~

~~(6) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.~~

~~(7) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.~~

~~(8) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.~~

(j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024, shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed: 2026.

SEC. 3. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to read:

54953.4. (a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Eligible legislative body" means a board, commission, or advisory body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed and which board, commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter.

(2) "Multijurisdictional" means a legislative body that includes representatives from more than one county, city, city and county, special district, or a joint powers entity formed pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1.

(b) An eligible legislative body may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 54953 if the legislative body complies with this section.

(c) An eligible legislative body shall not use teleconferencing pursuant to this section unless the eligible legislative body has adopted a resolution that authorizes the eligible legislative body to use teleconferencing at a regular meeting in open session.

(d) An eligible legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this section shall comply with all of the following:

(1) In each notice and posting of the time or agenda of the teleconferenced meeting, the eligible legislative body shall include the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.

(2) In the event of a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the eligible legislative body's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the eligible legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the eligible legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

(3) The eligible legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.

(4) (A) If an eligible legislative body provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item, the eligible legislative body shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subdivision (f), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

(B) If an eligible legislative body does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, the eligible legislative body shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subdivision (f).

(C) If an eligible legislative body provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item, the eligible legislative body shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subdivision (f), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.

(5) Except as provided in Section 54953.3, an eligible legislative body, within ~~seven~~ 10 days of holding a teleconference meeting, shall provide ~~both~~ all of the following on its internet website:

(A) A record of attendance of ~~both community members and the~~ members of the eligible legislative body.

(B) (i) The number of community members in attendance in the teleconference meeting.

(ii) The number of community members in attendance at the physical location of the public meeting may be provided in addition to the requirement specified in clause (i).

~~(B)~~

(C) The number of public comments in the meeting.

(6) (A) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible legislative body shall participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

(B) Any member of the eligible legislative body who receives compensation for their service on the eligible legislative body shall participate from a physical location that is open to the public. For purposes of this subparagraph, "compensation" does not include reimbursement for traveling or other actual and necessary expenses incurred in connection with participating in person.

(C) The eligible legislative body shall identify each member of the eligible legislative body who plans to participate remotely in the agenda and shall include the address of the publicly accessible building from where they will participate via teleconference. The specific room or location within the publicly accessible building from which a member participates via teleconference is not required to be publicly accessible.

(7) The eligible legislative body shall provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(8) The eligible legislative body shall comply with all requirements of Section 54953 except paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of that section.

(e) A member of the eligible legislative body shall not participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to this section unless they meet both of the following requirements:

(1) The location from which the member participates is more than 40 miles from the in-person location of the meeting.

(2) The member participates from their office or another location in a publicly accessible building.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of a third-party internet website or other online platform during a meeting held pursuant to this section may be required to register to log in to the teleconference if both of the following conditions are met:

(1) The internet website or online platform requires that registration.

(2) The decision to require registration is not under the control of the legislative body.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of, and add Section 54953.4 to, the Government Code, impose a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

Permitting remote participation for just cause due to a member's immunocompromised family member, as well as extending the operation of teleconferencing for legislative bodies of multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies with appointed membership, will further increase public participation, increase the pool of people who are able to serve on these bodies, including those that would otherwise have to travel long distances to attend meetings in person, and protect the health and safety of the public.

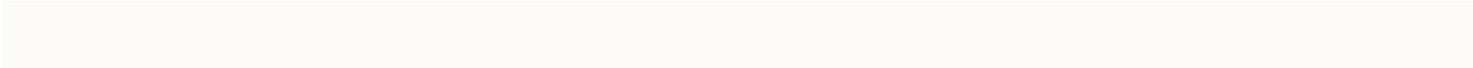
SEC. 5. *Sections 1.5 and 2.5 of this bill incorporate amendments to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 557. Those sections of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2024, but this bill becomes operative first, (2) each bill amends Section 54953 of the Government Code, and (3) this bill is enacted after Assembly Bill 557, in which case Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Sections 1 and 2 of this bill, shall remain operative only until the operative date of Assembly Bill 557, at which time Sections 1.5 and 2.5 of this bill shall become operative.*

SEC. 5-SEC. 6. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1, 2, and 3 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of, and add Section 54953.4 to, the Government Code, further, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

Permitting remote participation for just cause due to a member's immunocompromised family member, as well as extending the operation of teleconferencing for legislative bodies of multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies with appointed membership, will further increase public participation, increase the pool of people who are able to serve on these bodies, including those that would otherwise have to travel long distances to attend meetings in person, and protect the health and safety of the public.

SEC. 6-SEC. 7. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

Virtual meetings have allowed much easier access to appointed bodies of local agencies with far more members of the public participating in each meeting. This has created greater equity in the process and fostered the health of our democracy. In-person meetings may jeopardize the health and safety of vulnerable citizens due to ongoing risks of illnesses.



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CALAFCO List of Current Bills 1/5/2024

[AB 68](#)

(Ward D) Land use: streamlined housing approvals: density, subdivision, and utility approvals.

Current Text: Amended: 4/12/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 12/8/2022

Last Amend: 4/12/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was H. & C.D. on 3/16/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 4/28/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would require a local government to approve a proposed housing development pursuant to a streamlined, ministerial approval process if the development meets certain objective planning standards, including, but not limited to, a requirement that the proposed parcel for the development be a climate-smart parcel, as described, or be included in the applicable region’s sustainable communities strategy as a priority development area. The bill would set forth procedures for approving these developments and would set forth various limitations for these developments. The bill would authorize the Department of Housing and Community Development to review, adopt, amend, and repeal guidelines, rules, and regulations to implement uniform standards or criteria that supplement or clarify the terms, references, or standards set forth by this process.

Position

Watch

Subject

Planning

CALAFCO Comments: This bill was introduced as a spot holder in December, 2022, then was gutted and amended on March 16, 2023.

It now seeks to set up ministerial approvals for developments and certain water and sewer service extensions for developments that meet certain parameters. Parameters include that the parcel must be in a high or moderate resource area as categorized by the opportunity maps maintained by the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, be located within one-mile of transit but be in a very low vehicle travel area, and within one mile of assorted restaurants, bars, coffee shops, etc. Additionally, types of locations that do not qualify are also enumerated. Those include farmlands, wetlands, high fire hazard severity zones (as determined by Cal Fire), in proximity to a hazardous waste site, within a delineated earthquake fault zone, within a special flood hazard area or within a regulatory floodway, lands identified for conservation, protected habitat, and lands under a conservation easement.

3/31/2023: Watch position taken by Leg Committee.

4/21/2023: CALAFCO received word from the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, that this bill will not be heard this year.

Under the procedure that would be established by this bill, a minimum of 30 days notice to LAFCo would be required for the public hearing should a county seek to amend its general plan to increase the planned density on climate resilient lands.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

[AB 530](#)

(Boerner D) Vehicles: electric bicycles.

Current Text: Amended: 7/13/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/8/2023

Last Amend: 7/13/2023

Status: 9/14/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was TRANS. on 9/14/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 9/14/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would prohibit a person under 12 years of age from operating an electric bicycle of any class. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature to create an e-bike license program with an online written test and a state-issued photo identification for those persons without a valid driver’s license, prohibit persons under 12 years of age from riding e-bikes, and create a stakeholders working group composed of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Department of the California Highway Patrol, the Transportation Agency, bicycle groups, policy and fiscal staff, and other relevant stakeholders to work on recommendations to establish an e-bike training program and license. Because the bill would prohibit certain persons from riding electric bicycles, the violation of which would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

Position

Subject

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill was relative to greenhouse emissions. However, it was gutted and amended on 5/15/2023 and now addresses county water authorities.

Under existing law, the governing body of any public agency has an option (phrased as a "may") to submit to the voters any proposition to exclude the corporate area of that public agency from a county water authority. This bill would add the procedures under which that optional election would be conducted. Specifically, notice would be required in the manner already defined within subdivision (c) of Section 10. The election would be conducted and returns canvassed as provided by law for the elections in the public agency, and a majority of electors within county water authority territory would be needed for passage. The new procedure would also require that these elections will be separate elections but may run with another election.

On 6/16/2023, this topic was transitioned to AB 399 through the gut and amend process. Amendments of 7/13/2023 make this bill now relative to electric bicycles which is not a concern to CALAFCO. Position updated to -None-.

AB 805 (Arambula D) Drinking water consolidation: sewer service.

Current Text: Amended: 3/9/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 3/9/2023

Status: 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. SUSPENSE FILE on 4/19/2023)(May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 5/19/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would authorize the State Water Resources Control Board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities, including, but not limited to, consulting with the relevant regional water board and the receiving water system and conducting outreach to ratepayers and residents served by the receiving and subsumed water systems, as provided.

Position

Watch With Concerns

Subject

Water

CALAFCO Comments: This bill would authorize the state board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities. Under existing section (b)(3) LAFcos must be consulted and their input considered in regards to the provision of water service but sewer systems seem to be lacking.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 817 (Pacheco D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.

Current Text: Amended: 3/16/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 3/16/2023

Status: 4/25/2023-In committee: Hearing postponed by committee. (Set for hearing on 01/10/2024)

Location: 12/29/2023-A. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 1/10/2024 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CARRILLO, JUAN, Chair

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency's jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. This bill would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.

Position

Watch

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This bill appears to be a spot holder in that it currently only makes minor grammatical changes. The lack of substance raises concern regarding future changes to this bill.

3/16/2023: The bill was amended to speak specifically to teleconferenced meetings of subsidiary bodies, defined as a body that serves exclusively in an advisory capacity, and is not authorized to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements. For qualifying bodies, this bill would remove the requirement to post an agenda at the location of the subsidiary body member who was participating from off site- providing that the legislative body that formed the subsidiary body has previously made findings noting that teleconferenced meetings of the subsidiary body would enhance public access, and would promote the attractions, retention and diversity of the subsidiary body. The superior legislative body would need to revisit the matter and repeat those finding every 12 months thereafter. This bill also reaffirms that other provisions of the Brown Act are applicable to subsidiary bodies.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 828 (Connolly D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Current Text: Amended: 1/3/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 1/3/2024

Status: 1/4/2024-Re-referred to Com. on W., P., & W.

Location: 12/13/2023-A. W.,P. & W.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 1/9/2024 9 a.m. - State Capitol, Room 444 ASSEMBLY WATER, PARKS AND WILDLIFE, PAPAN, DIANE, Chair

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources that are designated as basins subject to critical conditions of overdraft to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Existing law defines various terms for purposes of the act. This bill would add various defined terms for purposes of the act, including the terms "managed wetland" and "small community water system."

Position	Subject
None at this time	Water

CALAFCO Comments: Adds definitions for Managed Wetlands, and Small community water system to Water Code Section 10721.

4/17/2023: Amended to define agencies and entities required or excluded from existing 10726.4 (a) (4). Amends Water Code section 10730.2 to add language regarding fees, and amends Water Code section 10733 to address groundwater sustainability plans.

Failed to make April policy committee deadline and now cannot be acted upon until January 2024.

AB 930 (Friedman D) Local government: Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California (RISE) districts.

Current Text: Amended: 4/26/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amend: 4/26/2023

Status: 5/19/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(5). (Last location was APPR. on 4/25/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 5/19/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	Policy	2 year	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law authorizes certain local agencies to form a community revitalization authority within a community revitalization and investment area, as defined, and authorizes an authority to, among other things, provide for low- and moderate-income housing and issue bonds, as provided. Current law authorizes a community revitalization and investment plan to provide for the division of taxes within the plan area. This bill would authorize the legislative bodies of 2 or more cities or counties to jointly form a Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California district (RISE district) in accordance with specified procedures. The bill would authorize a special district to join a RISE district, by resolution, as specified.

Position	Subject
Neutral	Special District Principle Acts

CALAFCO Comments: This bill has a similar overtone to SB 852 Dodd in 2022 regarding the formation of climate resilience districts outside of the LAFco process.

As introduced, this bill (AB 930) is focused on the generation of funding and the governance of the

expenditure of those funds. However, it should be carefully tracked in case that mission is expanded.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 1379 (Papan D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 3/23/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amend: 3/23/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was L. GOV. on 3/23/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 4/28/2023-A. 2 YEAR

Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body be open and public, and that all persons be permitted to attend unless a closed session is authorized. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. This bill, with respect to those general provisions on teleconferencing, would require a legislative body electing to use teleconferencing to instead post agendas at a singular designated physical meeting location, as defined, rather than at all teleconference locations. The bill would remove the requirements for the legislative body of the local agency to identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, and that at least a quorum of the members participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

Position

Watch

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: Originally introduced as a spotholder to address "Local agencies: financial affairs", this bill was gutted and amended on March 23, 2023, and now seeks amendment of the Brown Act's teleconferencing provisions. If successful, GC Section 54953 (b)(3) would be amended to remove the requirement to post agendas for teleconferenced meetings at all locations, and would instead limit the posting to a newly defined "singular designated physical meeting location", which is required to have either two-way audiovisual capabilities, or two-way telephone service for the public to remotely hear and address the body. Additionally, the body would have to hold at least two meetings in person each year.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 1460 (Bennett D) Local government.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/17/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 5/5/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(3). (Last location was PRINT on 2/17/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 5/5/2023-A. 2 YEAR

2 year	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, provides the exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts, except as specified. This bill would make a nonsubstantive change to the provision naming the act.

Position

Neutral

Subject

CKH General Procedures, Other

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced, this bill makes only a minor nonsubstantive change to CKH in that it would merely add commas to Section 56000 so that it would read: "This division shall be known, and may be cited, as the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000."

3/24/2023: No change since introduction.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

SB 537

(Becker D) Open meetings: multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 9/5/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amend: 9/5/2023

Status: 9/14/2023-Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Bryan.

Location: 9/14/2023-A. INACTIVE FILE

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered	
1st House				2nd House								

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency’s jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. These circumstances include if a member shows “just cause,” including for a childcare or caregiving need of a relative that requires the member to participate remotely. This bill would expand the circumstances of “just cause” to apply to the situation in which an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, or other specified relative requires the member to participate remotely. The bill would authorize the legislative body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, as specified, to use alternate teleconferencing provisions if the eligible legislative body has adopted an authorizing resolution, as specified. The bill would also require the legislative body to provide a record of attendance of the members of the legislative body, the number of community members in attendance in the teleconference meeting, and the number of public comments on its internet website within 10 days after a teleconference meeting, as specified. The bill would require at least a quorum of members of the legislative body to participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

Position

Watch

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This is a spotholder bill that states an intent to expand local government’s access to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and remote access.

3/22/2023: was amended and fleshed out to add teleconferencing provisions to allow legislative bodies of multijurisdictional agencies to meet remotely. Multijurisdictional agencies are defined as boards, commissions, or advisory bodies of a multijurisdictional, cross county agency, which is composed of appointed representatives from more than one county, city, city and county, special district, or a joint powers entity.

The bill is sponsored by Peninsula Clean Energy, a community choice aggregator with a board comprised of local elected officials from the County of San Mateo and its 20 cities, as well as the City of Los Banos.

4/24/2023: The bill was amended to further clarify definitions and the requirements needed for members of an eligible legislative body to meet remotely.

The bill passed Senate Judiciary on 5/2/23, and had its third reading in the Senate on 5/30/2023. 7/12/23: The bill passed the Assembly Local Government Committee.

Amended on August 14, 2023, to require eligible legislative bodies that receive compensation to participate from a physical location that is open to the public.

9/14/2023, the bill was moved into the inactive file.

SB 768

(Caballero D) California Environmental Quality Act: vehicle miles traveled: statement of overriding consideration.

Current Text: Amended: 3/22/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amend: 3/22/2023

Status: 4/18/2023-April 19 set for first hearing canceled at the request of author. (Set for hearing on 01/10/2024)

Location: 1/5/2024-S. E.Q.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered	
1st House				2nd House								

Calendar: 1/10/2024 9:30 a.m. - 1021 O Street, Room 2200 SENATE ENVIRONMENTAL

QUALITY, ALLEN, BENJAMIN, Chair

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. CEQA prohibits a public agency from approving or carrying out a project for which a certified EIR has identified one or more significant effects on the environment that would occur if the project is approved or carried out unless the public agency finds either (1) changes or alterations have been required in, or incorporated into, the project that mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment, (2) those changes or alterations are within the jurisdiction of another public agency and have been, or can and should be, adopted by the other agency, or (3) specific economic, legal, social, technological, or other considerations make infeasible the mitigation measures or alternatives identified in the EIR and the public agency finds that those specific considerations outweigh the significant effects on the environment, commonly known as a statement of overriding consideration. This bill would provide that a public agency, in approving or carrying out a housing development project, as defined, a commercial project, or an industrial project, is not required to issue a statement of overriding consideration for significant effects on the environment identified by a project's vehicle miles traveled or similar metrics if the lead agency has imposed all feasible mitigation measures on the project and it finds no feasible alternatives to the project..

Position
Neutral

Subject
CEQA

CALAFCO Comments: Introduced as a spotholder bill that noted an intent to enact subsequent legislation that would create a new transportation impact analysis for rural areas for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

3/22/2023: The bill was amended and would add language into the Public Resource Code to provide that a public agency, in approving or carrying out certain types of projects, is not required to issue a statement of overriding consideration for significant effects on the environment identified by a project's vehicle miles traveled if the lead agency has imposed all feasible mitigation measures on the project and it finds no feasible alternatives to the project.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

SB 865

(Laird D) Municipal water districts: automatic exclusion of cities.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/17/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Status: 4/28/2023-Failed Deadline pursuant to Rule 61(a)(2). (Last location was GOV. & F. on 3/1/2023) (May be acted upon Jan 2024)

Location: 4/28/2023-S. 2 YEAR

Desk	2 year	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law authorizes a governing body of a municipal water district to adopt an ordinance excluding any territory annexed to a metropolitan water district organized under the Metropolitan Water District Act, if the territory is annexed prior to the effective date of the formation of the municipal water district. Current law requires the Secretary of State to issue a certificate reciting the passage of the ordinance and the exclusion of the area from the municipal water district within 10 days of receiving a certified copy of the ordinance. This bill would extend the number of days the Secretary of State has to issue a certificate to 14 days.

Position
Neutral

Subject
Annexation
Proceedings

CALAFCO Comments: Existing law authorizes a governing body of a municipal water district may adopt an ordinance excluding any territory annexed to a metropolitan water district organized under the Metropolitan Water District Act, providing that the territory is annexed prior to the effective date of the formation of the municipal water district. If that happens, the Secretary of State must, within 10 days of receiving a certified copy, issue a certificate reciting the passage of the ordinance that excludes the area from the municipal water district. This bill would extend the Secretary of State's window to issue that certificate from 10 to 14 days.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

Total Measures: 11

Total Tracking Forms: 11