



# Helendale Community Services District

26540 Vista Road, Suite C, Helendale, CA 92342

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING** **Thursday, October 6, 2022 at 6:30 PM**

### **SPECIAL NOTICE OF TELECONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY**

Pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 which amended certain provisions of the Brown Act regarding teleconference meetings during periods of statewide emergencies, and as a precaution to our Board of Directors, District staff, and general public as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Helendale Community Services District will hold this meeting of its Board of Directors both in-person at the District Office located at 26540 Vista Road, Suite C, Helendale, California, and via teleconference. This meeting is open to the public in person or via virtual interface and can be accessed by clicking on the link below: [www.zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com) Meeting ID 463 173 8547 Passcode: HCSD. (Dial-in instructions will be provided after registering at the link above)

### **Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **1. Approval of Agenda**

#### **2. Public Participation**

*Anyone wishing to address any matter pertaining to District business listed on the agenda or not, may do so at this time. However, the Board of Directors may not take action on items that are not on the agenda. The public comment period may be limited to three (3) minutes per person. Any member wishing to make comments may do so by filling out the speaker's card in person or using the "raise the hand" or "chat" feature. If viewing remotely a speaker's card may be filled out at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HKGNLL8> or use the features referenced above. The District requests that all speaker cards be submitted at any time prior to the close of public participation.*

#### **3. Consent Items**

- a. Approval of Minutes: September 15 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Bills Paid Report
- c. Resolution 2022-01M: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Helendale Community Services District Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom, Declaring That Local Emergency Conditions Persist, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Board of Directors and Its Standing Committees for the Period October 6, 2022, to November 3, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

#### **4. Reports**

- a. Directors' Reports
- b. General Manager's Report

#### **Regular Business:**

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Directors' Expense Reports
6. Discussion Only Regarding Comparison of AB 2449 (Rubio) and AB 361 (Rivas) Related to District Meetings
7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval to Move District Funds to Additional Investment Options
8. Discussion Only Regarding Review of Water Usage for Water Year 2021/2022
9. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding December Meeting Schedule

#### **Other Business**

10. Requested items for next or future agendas (Directors and Staff only)

#### **11. Adjournment**

*Pursuant to Government Code Section 54954.2(a), any request for a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, that is sought in order to participate in the above agendaized public meeting should be directed to the District's General Manager's office at (760) 951-0006 at least 24 hours prior to said meeting. The regular session of the Board meeting will be recorded. Recordings of the Board meetings are kept for the Clerk of the Board's convenience. These recordings are not the official minutes of the Board meetings.*



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #3  
Consent Items

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## CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Approval of Minutes: September 15
- b. Bills Paid Report
- c. Resolution2022-01M



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
BY: Cheryl Vermette  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #3a  
Minutes from Board meeting 9/15/2022

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Minutes of the Helendale Community Services District  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
26540 Vista Rd. Helendale, CA 92342  
Thursday, September 15, 2022, at 6:30 PM

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**SPECIAL NOTICE OF TELECONFERENCE ACCESSIBILITY**

Pursuant to the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 which amended certain provisions of the Brown Act regarding teleconference meetings during periods of statewide emergencies, and as a precaution to our Board of Directors, District staff, and general public as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Helendale Community Services District will hold this meeting of its Board of Directors both in-person at the District Office located at 26540 Vista Road, Suite C, Helendale, California, and via teleconference. This meeting is open to the public in person or via virtual interface and can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

[www.zoom.com](https://www.zoom.com) Meeting ID 463 173 8547 Passcode: HCSD.  
(Dial-in instructions will be provided after registering at the link above)

**Board Members Roll Call:**

**Present:** President Tim Smith; Vice President Henry Spiller; Secretary, Sandy Haas (via Zoom); Director Ron Clark (via Zoom), Director Craig Schneider

**Staff Members Present:**

Kimberly Cox, General Manager; Craig Carlson, Water Operations Manager; Cheryl Vermette, Parks, Recreation & Programs Supervisor

**Consultants:**

Steve Kennedy, Legal Counsel (via Zoom)

**Members of the Public:**

There was one members of the public attending in person.

**Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance**

President Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**1. Approval of Agenda**

**Motion** – Director Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**Second** – Director Spiller

**Roll Call Vote:**

President Smith – Yes

Vice President Spiller – Yes

Director Clark – Yes

Director Haas – Yes

Director Schneider – Yes

## 2. Public Participation

None

## 3. Consent Items

a. Approval of Minutes: September 1 Regular Board Meeting

b. Bills Paid Report

c. July Financials

d. Resolution 2022-01L: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Helendale Community Services District

Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom, Declaring That Local Emergency Conditions Persist, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings of the Board of Directors and Its Standing Committees for the Period September 15, 2022, to October 6, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

**Motion** – Director Schneider made a motion to approve the consent calendar as presented.

**Second** – Director Spiller

**Roll Call Vote:**

President Smith – Yes

Vice President Spiller – Yes

Director Clark – Yes

Director Haas – Yes

Director Schneider – Yes

## 4. Reports

a. Directors' Reports

Vice President Spiller commented that the concert in the park was well done. It was a great event and well participated in.

Director Schneider – concurred with Vice President Spiller regarding the Concert in the Park. This past Tuesday Director Schneider made a presentation to the Senior Center regarding SB 1383.

b. General Manager's Report

General Manager Cox asked Legal Counsel Kennedy to review SB 2449 that was signed by the governor on 9/14 regarding remote meetings.

The last concert was well received. The food waste total for week two was 500 pounds. Week one was 220 pounds. The circus will set up on 9/27 and break down beginning 10/4. There were 40 account transfers in August. Eight deposit letters were mailed to high-risk customers – defined as a customer who has had at least one disconnected for nonpayment during the past 12 months, this definition was modified in the deposit policy to eliminate late payments. Collecting deposits should help with unpaid balances. The District has a total cash balance of \$6,065,405 - \$\$2,417,937 in the water fund; \$2,916,690 in the sewer fund; \$378,889 in the park fund and \$219,508 in the solid waste fund. The District has funds in LAIF (\$2,023,397.71), CLASS (\$2,001,506.95), CBB (\$1,834,177.64) and DCB (57,467.77).

**Regular Business:**

5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Directors' Expense Reports

**Motion** – Vice President Spiller made a motion to approve the expense reports as presented.

**Second** – President Smith

**Roll Call Vote:**

President Smith – Yes

Vice President Spiller – Yes

Director Clark – Yes

Director Haas – Yes

Director Schneider – Yes

6. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Service Truck Purchase

**Discussion** – General Manager Cox reviewed the CIP. Factors that were reviewed when deciding which unit to replace are the age, mileage and repairs needed. The District has typically purchased used vehicles. The last service truck was a 2006 GMC for \$16,000 in 2017. The service truck was included in the FY 2023 CIP. There was \$50,000 allocated in the CIP and there are \$18,035 remaining in the previously approved funds for a service truck. The total available to purchase a new service truck is \$68,035. All of the items on the CIP are above the general managers signing authority and need Board approval. Unit 216 – a 2005 Chevy 3500 with 160,000 miles has been selected to be replaced. The following items need to be repaired or replaced on this unit: ball joint, cracked radiator, split AC line, the transmission slips, rear trans seal leaks, replace shocks, driver door lock broken, and the truck gets very low MPG. Used and new options will be evaluated to replace this unit.

**Motion** – Director Haas made a motion to approve the replacement of one service truck in an amount not to exceed \$68,035.

**Second** – Director Schneider

**Roll Call Vote:**

President Smith – Yes

Vice President Spiller – Yes

Director Clark – Yes

Director Haas – Yes

Director Schneider – Yes

7. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Funds for Well 13 Completion

**Discussion** – The pump/motor installation is anticipated in October. Several other elements are outstanding. The well completion was anticipated last fiscal year. Market dynamics have impacted completion. The grant funded \$750,000 of the well project. Anticipated items remaining include Electrical wire & conduit estimated at \$65,000 to be completed by a contractor, concrete (Well head/building) estimated at \$24,000 to be completed by staff, trans/crane estimated at \$2,500 to be completed by a contractor, Edison \$11,800 to be completed by SCE, chlorine shed estimated at \$2,000 to be completed by staff, the chlorine pump estimated at \$1,200 to be completed by staff, lighting estimated at \$1,000 to be completed by staff, SCADA estimated at \$5,000 to be completed by a contractor, 2" foamboard estimated at \$800 to be completed by staff, a

shade panel estimated at \$2,000 to be completed by staff, and security cameras estimated at \$1,200 to be completed by staff.

**Motion** – Director Schneider made a motion for the completion of the well 13 project in the amount of \$125,000 to include \$65,000 for the electrical components and \$25,000 for concrete material.

**Second** – Vice President Spiller

**Roll Call Vote:**

President Smith – Yes

Vice President Spiller – Yes

Director Clark – Yes

Director Haas – Yes

Director Schneider – Yes

**Other Business**

8. Requested items for next or future agendas (Directors and Staff only)

9. Adjournment

President Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm

Submitted by:

Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Smith, President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sandy Haas, Secretary

*The Board actions represent decisions of the Helendale Community Services District Board of Directors. A digital voice recording and copy of the PowerPoint presentation are available upon request at the Helendale CSD office.*



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 06, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
BY: Sharon Kreinop, Senior Account Specialist  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #3 b  
Consent Items: Updated Bills Paid and Presented for Approval

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Updated Report Only. Receive and File

**STAFF REPORT:**

Staff issued 51 checks and 10 EFT's totaling \$251,314.59

Total Cash Available:	<u>10/03/22</u>	<u>09/12/22</u>
Cash	\$6,135,871.52	\$6,065,404.70
Checks/EFT's Issued	\$ 251,314.59	\$ 82,317.36

**Investment Report**

The Investment Report shows the status of the invested District funds. The interest rate is 0.11% for LAIF and 2.6078% for CA Class for September 2022. Interest earned September 2022 on CA Class account is \$4,290.04. No longer earning interest on CBB account since Sweep account was closed.





Helendale CSD

# Bills Paid and Presented for Approval Transaction Detail

Issued Date Range: 09/13/2022 - 10/03/2022

Cleared Date Range: -

Issued Date	Number	Description	Amount	Type	Module
<b>Bank Account: 251229590 - CBB Checking</b>					
09/16/2022	<a href="#">25673</a>	California State Disbursement Unit	-230.76	Check	Accounts Payable
09/16/2022	<a href="#">25674</a>	State of California - Franchise Tax Board	-50.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25675</a>	Alma Laura Esquivel	-216.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25676</a>	Amazon Capitol Services	-59.74	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25677</a>	Burrtec Waste Industries Inc	-492.89	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25678</a>	Cardmember Services	-1,322.80	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25679</a>	ES OPCO USA LLC	-580.50	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25680</a>	Geo-Monitor, Inc.	-208.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25681</a>	Home Depot Credit Services	-1,147.82	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25682</a>	Infosend, Inc	-1,967.12	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25683</a>	Lowe's Inc.	-1,713.82	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25684</a>	Mobile Occupational Services, Inc.	-145.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25685</a>	Parkhouse Tire, Inc.	-309.77	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25686</a>	Robert R. Yeghoian Co., Inc.	-1,300.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25687</a>	Ryan Herco Products Corp	-485.20	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25688</a>	Silver Lakes Hardware	-96.10	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25689</a>	State of California Department of Justice	-98.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25690</a>	Synagro West, LLC	-576.41	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25691</a>	Ultimate Internet Access, Inc	-191.54	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25692</a>	Ultimate Internet Access, Inc	-813.72	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25693</a>	Univar Solutions, USA	-3,014.50	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25694</a>	Verizon Wireless	-650.20	Check	Accounts Payable
09/15/2022	<a href="#">25695</a>	Verizon Wireless	-106.32	Check	Accounts Payable
09/19/2022	<a href="#">25696</a>	KALEE VAN TASSEL	-279.44	Check	Utility Billing
09/21/2022	<a href="#">25697</a>	Daily Press Reversal	564.58	Check Reversal	Accounts Payable
09/21/2022	<a href="#">25697</a>	Daily Press	-564.58	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25698</a>	Barstow Community College	-1,000.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25699</a>	Burrtec Waste Group, Inc	-111,837.69	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25700</a>	County of San Bernardino, Solid Waste Mgmt. Div.	-848.61	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25701</a>	Frontier Communications	-62.31	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25702</a>	Frontier Communications	-94.24	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25703</a>	Frontier Communications	-72.44	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25704</a>	Robert R. Yeghoian Co., Inc.	-6,132.40	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25705</a>	San Bernardino County Fire Protection District	-910.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25706</a>	Sierra Analytical Labs, Inc	-240.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25707</a>	Staples Credit Plan	-513.97	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25708</a>	United States Treasury	-825.36	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25709</a>	USA Blue Book	-1,045.66	Check	Accounts Payable
09/22/2022	<a href="#">25710</a>	Gatehouse Media California Holdings, INC	-564.58	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25711</a>	ACI Payments, Inc	-57.30	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25712</a>	Amazon Capitol Services	-707.65	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25713</a>	AVCOM Services Inc.	-600.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25714</a>	Boot Barn Inc.	-456.72	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25715</a>	Cal Fire	-907.76	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25716</a>	Jean Thomas	-8,900.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25717</a>	Lonnie Geary	-200.00	Check	Accounts Payable

**Bank Transaction Report**

Issued Date	Number	Description	Amount	Type	Module
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25718</a>	Print Mart	-182.65	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25719</a>	Rebecca Gonzalez	-330.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/27/2022	<a href="#">25720</a>	Brunick, McElhaney & Kennedy Professional Law Corp	-5,325.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/30/2022	<a href="#">25721</a>	California State Disbursement Unit	-230.76	Check	Accounts Payable
09/30/2022	<a href="#">25722</a>	State of California - Franchise Tax Board	-50.00	Check	Accounts Payable
09/29/2022	<a href="#">25723</a>	Eide Bailly LLP	-3,568.50	Check	Accounts Payable
09/29/2022	<a href="#">25724</a>	Mark Christopher Chevrolet Inc	-66,430.15	Check	Accounts Payable
09/21/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004266</a>	SCE Street Lighting Acct # 700013030275	-1,528.61	EFT	General Ledger
09/20/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004268</a>	SCE ACH Park Wellheads Acct 700448234519	-516.60	EFT	General Ledger
09/16/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004279</a>	CalPERS 457 Pmt PPE 9/11/22	-4,629.26	EFT	General Ledger
09/26/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004285</a>	CalPERS Classic Pmt PPE 8/28/22	-7,891.58	EFT	General Ledger
09/26/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004286</a>	CalPERS PEPRA Pmt PPE 8/28/22	-1,848.49	EFT	General Ledger
10/03/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004294</a>	To record Global Merchant Fees Acct 4366 -	-837.03	EFT	General Ledger
10/03/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004295</a>	To record Global Merchant Fees Acct 4367 -	-2,393.35	EFT	General Ledger
10/03/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004296</a>	To record EVO Thrift Store CC Fees 23099	-386.80	EFT	General Ledger
09/27/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004297</a>	SCE ACH Sod Farm Acct 700255337588	-2,364.73	EFT	General Ledger
09/20/2022	<a href="#">EFT0004298</a>	To record Tasc Flex Claim Pmt PPE 9/11/22	-768.74	EFT	General Ledger
			<b>Bank Account 251229590 Total: (63)</b>		<b>-25,,314.59</b>
				<b>Report Total: (63)</b>	<b>-251,314.59</b>

Bank Transaction Report

Issued Date Range: -

Summary

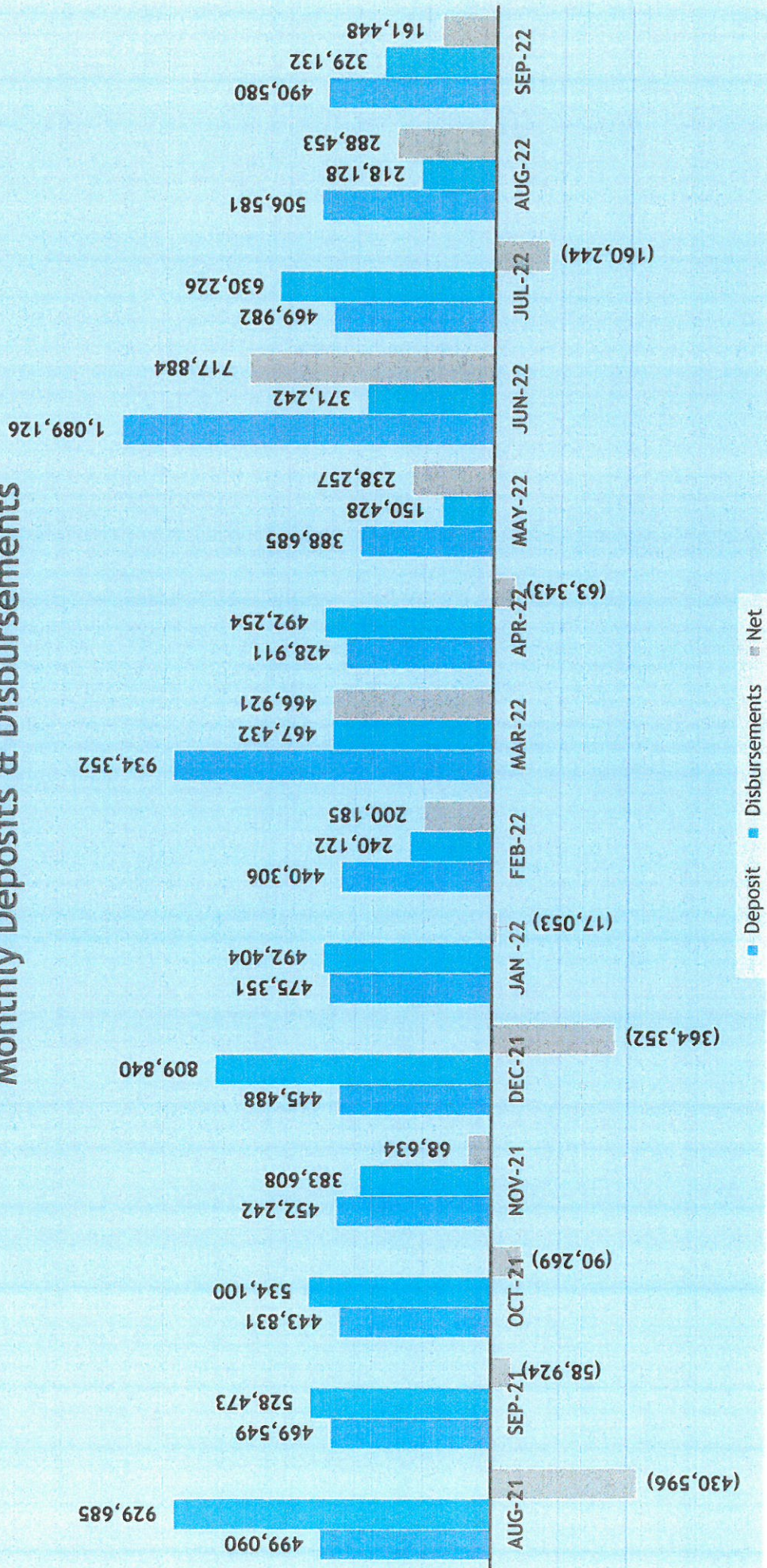
Bank Account	Count	Amount
<a href="#">251229590 CBB Checking</a>	63	-251,314.59
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-251,314.59</b>

Cash Account	Count	Amount
<a href="#">99-99-111000 Cash in CBB - Checking</a>	63	-251,314.59
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-251,314.59</b>

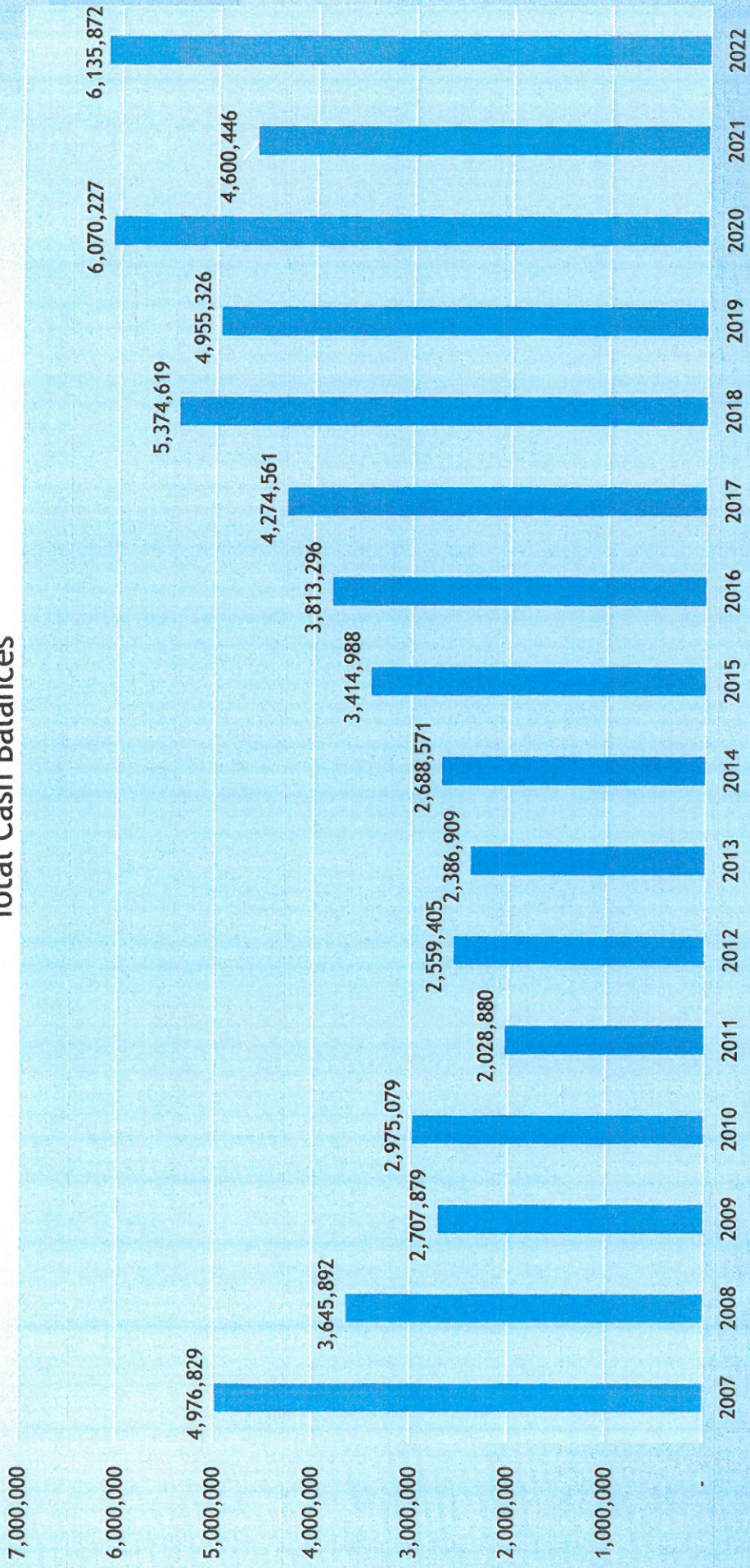
Transaction Type	Count	Amount
Check	52	-228,713.98
Check Reversal	1	564.58
EFT	10	-23,165.19
<b>Report Total:</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-251,314.59</b>

# Cash Flow Report

## Monthly Deposits & Disbursements

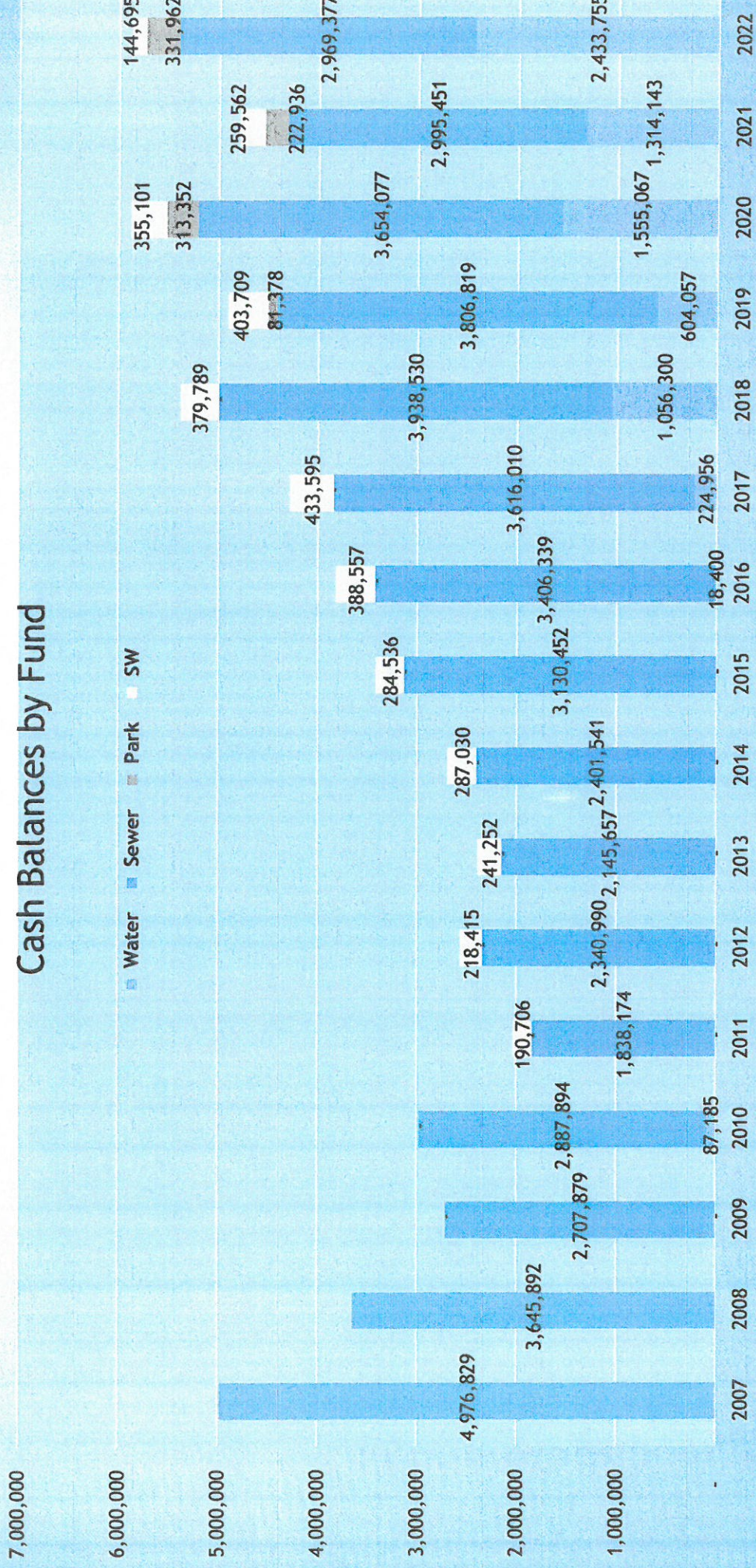


# Total Cash Balances

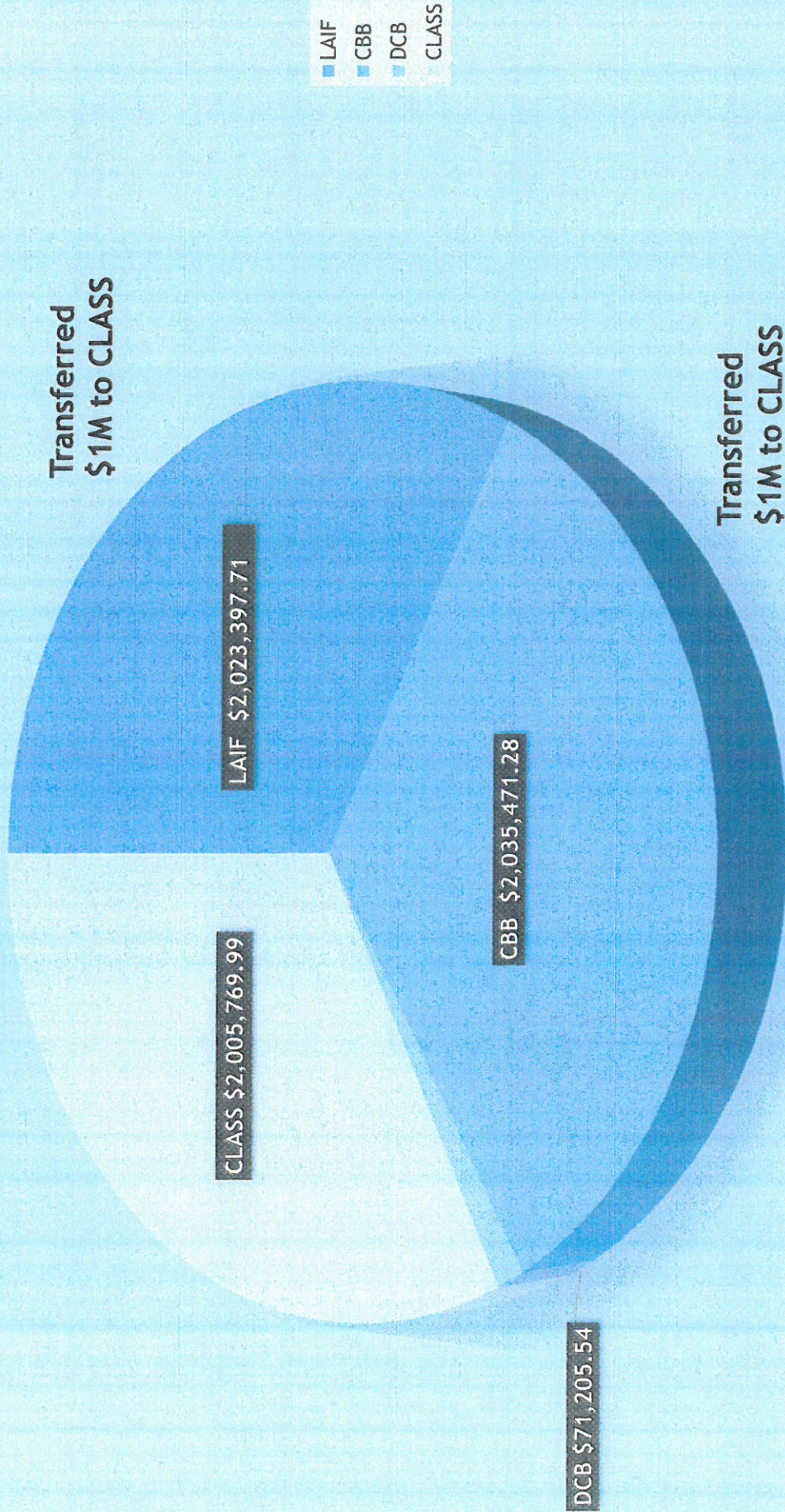


# Cash Balances by Fund

Water Sewer Park SW



# FUNDS BY DEPOSITORY



Transferred  
\$1M to CLASS

Transferred  
\$1M to CLASS

- LAIF
- CBB
- DCB
- CLASS



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #3c  
Resolution 2022-01M: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Helendale Community Services District Re-Ratifying the Proclamation of a State of Emergency by Governor Newsom, Declaring that Local Emergency Conditions Persist, and Re-Authorizing Remote Teleconference Meetings for the Board of Directors and its Standing Committees for the Period October 6, 2022, to November 3, 2022, Pursuant to Brown Act Provisions

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2022- 01M**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HELENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, DECLARING THAT LOCAL EMERGENCY CONDITIONS PERSIST, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 6, 2022, TO NOVEMBER 3, 2022, PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS**

WHEREAS, the Helendale Community Services District (the “District”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the District’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) and its standing committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch those bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, in Government Code Section 54953(e), makes provision for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code Section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition for application of Government Code Section 54953(e) is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code Section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the State caused by conditions as described in Government Code Section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District’s boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19, and such proclamation has not yet been lifted; and

WHEREAS, it is further required under Government Code Section 54953(e) that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing or that the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously adopted Resolution No. 2022-01L on September 15, 2022, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the Board and its standing committees to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with Government Code Section 54953(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the provisions set forth in Government Code Section 54953(e), the Board must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists within the District, and the Board has done so; and

WHEREAS, emergency conditions persist within the District, specifically COVID-19 and its Delta variant, remain highly contagious and, therefore, a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of the District's employees, directors, vendors, contractors, customers, visitors, and residents; and

WHEREAS, directions from the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and regulations from the State of California impose various social distancing restrictions and provide guidance on best practices with respect to actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Board does hereby find that a state of emergency continues to exist within the District's service area as a result of the continuing presence of COVID-19, which has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of imminent risk to attendees of Board meetings, and has resulted in local, State, and federal social distancing orders and related guidance, and which has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the District that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the District, and the Board desires to re-affirm that a local emergency exists and re-ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting, the Board does hereby find that the Board and all standing committees thereof shall continue to conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall continue to comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the District will continue to provide proper notice to the public regarding all Board and standing committee meetings in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(2) and shall continue to provide notice to the public of how they may access any such meeting via call-in number and/or internet link.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE HELENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Affirmation that Local Emergency Persists. The Board hereby considers the conditions of the state of emergency within the District and proclaims that a local emergency persists throughout the District as a result of the continuing presence of COVID-19, which continues to cause conditions of imminent risk to attendees of the District's Board and standing committee meetings, and which have resulted in local, State, and federal social distancing orders

and guidance, and that continuing to conduct the District's Board and standing committee meetings virtually will minimize the possible spread COVID-19 and any variant thereof.

Section 3. Re-Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby re-ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency regarding COVID-19, dated March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The District's General Manager, or his or her delegee, and the Board and standing committees of the District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including but not limited to continuing to conduct open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date this Resolution was adopted, as set forth below, or (ii) such time as the Board adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Board and standing committees of the District may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Helendale Community Services District this 6th day of October, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

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Tim Smith, President, Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Sandy Haas, Secretary, Board of Directors



# Helendale Community Services District

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DATE: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #5  
Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval of Directors' Expense Reports

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## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None.

## **STAFF REPORT**

This matter is at the discretion of the Board. Included herein for the Board's consideration are expense reports submitted since the last Board meeting.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** NA

**POSSIBLE MOTION:** At the discretion of the Board.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Expense Reports





Los Domingos  
(760) 256-1381

Ticket No: 55  
Ticket UID: 20220914D660-152  
Small Room->5

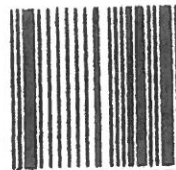
Employee: Brittney  
Dine In  
Date: 9/14/2022  
Time: 12:24:20 PM

L-11 Grilled Chicken Salad	\$9.95
-- Ranch	\$0.00
L-14 Santa Fe Salad	\$10.95
-- Jalapeno Ranch	\$0.00

Subtotal: \$20.90  
Tax: \$1.83  
Total: \$22.73

Suggested Tip

10% (Tip: \$2.27, Total: \$25.00)  
15% (Tip: \$3.41, Total: \$26.14)  
20% (Tip: \$4.55, Total: \$27.28)



Thank you come again!  
Please leave us a review on Yelp, Google or  
Facebook







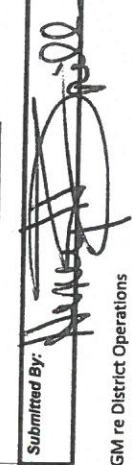
HELENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER EXPENSE VOUCHER

Name: **HENRY SPICER**

Date	Event	Expense Description/Explanation	Miles	Meals	Lodging	Other	Exp Category
9/1	Public Benefit	Farmers Market					No Compensation
9/1	Event	Rep @ public Event					
9/1	Public Benefit	Board Meeting					
9/7	Event	Public Meeting governed by the Brown Act					A
9/7	Public Benefit	Farmers Market					
9/10	Event	Rep @ public Event					
9/10	Public Benefit	Park Party Concert					J
9/10	Public Benefit	Rep @ public Event					C
9/13	Event	Meeting with GM					
9/13	Public Benefit	Meeting with GM regarding district business					G
9/15	Event	Board Meeting					
9/15	Public Benefit	Public Meeting Governed by the Brown Act					A
9/20	Event	Park Meeting					
9/20	Public Benefit	Public Meeting governed by the Brown Act					A
9/21	Event	Farmers Market					
9/21	Public Benefit	Rep @ public Event					F
9/28	Event	Farmers Market					
9/28	Public Benefit	Rep @ public Event					J
9/30	Event	Trip to B. concert ME F					
9/30	Public Benefit	Meeting related to the district					E

Notes/Comments:

Totals:	Mileage	-
	Meals	-
	Lodging	-
	Other	-
	Grand Total	-

Submitted By: 

Appropriate Approval

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

- Expense Categories
- G: Meeting w/GM re District Operations
  - H: Meeting w/auditors, attorney or consultant retained by District
  - I: Meeting of Local, State or Federal body w/jurisdiction affecting HCSD
  - J: Meeting w/organization with interests in matters involving functions or operations of the District
  - K: Meeting pre-approved by the Board of Directors

\* Written or verbal report required to be presented at the next Board meeting

REC'D OCT 03 2022



## Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #6  
Discussion Only Regarding Comparison of AB2449 (Rubio) and AB 361 (Rivas)  
Related to District Meetings.

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

None

**STAFF REPORT:**

District General Counsel will provide a comparison of the two pieces of legislation as it relates to modifications in the way the Board can hold meetings related to remote participation. Counsel was the author of AB 2449 that was sponsored by Assembly member Rubio. The legislation went through dramatic revisions as it made its way through committees and finally to the Governor's desk for signing.

AB 361 was signed into law on September 17, 2021 and has been utilized by the District to allow remote access to meetings for the directors for several months.

Both pieces of legislation have sunset dates and do not represent a permanent change to the Brown Act requirements.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** NA

**POSSIBLE MOTION:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** Memo from Steve Kennedy, General Counsel  
AB 2449  
AB 361

BRUNICK, MCELHANEY & KENNEDY

PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

1839 COMMERCENTER WEST

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92408

TELEPHONE: (909) 889-8301  
FAX: (909) 388-1889

WILLIAM J. BRUNICK  
LELAND P. MCELHANEY  
STEVEN M. KENNEDY

MAILING ADDRESS:

POST OFFICE BOX 13130

SAN BERNARDINO, CALIFORNIA 92423-3130

October 3, 2022

TO: Board of Directors  
HELENDALE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

FROM: Steven M. Kennedy, General Counsel

RE: Teleconferencing Under the Brown Act - Assembly Bill 2449

The purpose of this memorandum is to furnish the Board with information concerning the above-referenced legislation that was signed into law by Governor Newsom on September 13, 2022, following passage of the bill out of the State Senate by a 36-3-1 vote and the State Assembly by a vote of 67-2-11.

The Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code Sections 54950-54963 ("Brown Act"), is a California "sunshine" law that sets forth the requirements for public access to meetings of local governmental agencies. Under the Brown Act, legislative bodies of local agencies may conduct meetings via teleconference subject to the following conditions set forth in Government Code Section 54953(b):

- (i) A quorum of the body must participate from location with the local agency's jurisdiction, but other members may participate from outside the jurisdiction;
- (ii) The remote location(s) must be connected to the main meeting location by telephone, video, or both;
- (iii) The notice and agenda for the meeting must identify the remote location(s);
- (iv) The remote location(s) must be posted and accessible to the public;
- (v) All votes must be by roll call; and
- (vi) The meeting must otherwise comply with the Brown Act, which includes allowing participation by members of the public present in remote location(s).

On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 to implement social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which waived all of the legislative requirements in the Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of Board members, District staff, or the public as a condition of participation in, or a quorum

for, a public meeting. The remote meeting rules of Executive Order N-29-20 expired on September 30, 2021, pursuant to the Governor's issuance of Executive Order N-15-21.

Beginning October 1, 2021, Assembly Bill ("AB") 361 amended the Brown Act by adding Government Code Section 54953(e) to allow local agencies to meeting virtually without complying with the above requirements under the following rules:

(1) Declared State of Emergency. The Governor must have declared a state of emergency, regarding which either (a) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing or (b) the legislative body determines, by majority vote, that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees due to the emergency.

(2) Public Comment Opportunities in Real Time. A legislative body that meets virtually pursuant to AB 361 must allow members of the public to access the meeting via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and the agenda for the remote meeting must provide an opportunity for members of the public to directly address the body in real time. A legislative body cannot require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting.

(3) No Action During Disruptions. In the event of a disruption that prevents the local agency from broadcasting the virtual meeting, 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 option, the legislative body is prohibited from taking any further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in or internet-based option is restored.

(4) Periodic Findings. Every 30 days, starting when it first meets virtually under AB 361, the legislative body must find, by majority vote, that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency, and either (a) the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person or (b) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(f), AB 361 will automatically sunset on January 1, 2024. As a result, various bills have been introduced before the State Legislature to extend teleconferencing options beyond the sunset date of AB 361 and/or independent of a proclamation from the Governor of a statewide state of emergency and the need for an ongoing 30-day local recertification that such emergency restricts the ability of agencies to safely meet in person. However, only one of those bills – AB 2449 sponsored by Three Valleys Municipal Water District ("TVMWD") – was successfully enacted into the Brown Act. Attached hereto please find a copy of AB 2449 as chaptered into law and a summary of AB 2449 that was prepared by TVMWD.

Additionally, the following table schematically reflects the relative distinctions for teleconference/remote meetings under traditional Brown Act provisions, AB 361, and as now provided in AB 2449:

Type of Meeting	Board Attendance	Public Attendance	Findings/Limitations	Requirements
Typical Brown Act meeting	In person	In person	N/A	G.C. Sec. 54950 et seq. ("General")
Teleconference meeting [G.C. Sec. 54953(b)]	In person except for teleconferencing director(s)	In person at physical location and teleconference location	None	General requirements plus: * Roll call votes; Teleconference location identified on agenda; * Teleconference location accessible to the public; * Agenda posted at teleconference location; * Public participation from teleconference location; * Quorum attending within District boundaries.
AB 361 meeting [G.C. Sec. 54953(e) until 1/1/24]	In person and/or teleconference	Can be remote only	* State-declared emergency; * Social distancing guidelines or threat of imminent harm.	General requirements plus: * Adoption by Resolution; * Recertification required every 30 days; * Agenda must provide info on remote access and participation;

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* Agenda shall include opportunity for public to directly address Board via call-in option or internet-based service option;</li><li>* If technical difficulties, Board must not take any action on agenda items until restoration of service;</li><li>* Board cannot require public comments be submitted in advance of meeting and must provide opportunity for public to address Board in real time;</li><li>* Public commenters may be required to register if deemed necessary by third-party remote platform;</li><li>* Public comment must be accepted until public comment period is formally closed; if public comment is provided only on a per-item basis, Board must allow reasonable amount of time</li></ul>
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				per agenda item for public to register and comment.
AB 2449 meeting [G.C. Sec. 54953(f) until 1/1/24; G.C. Sec. 54953(e) from 1/1/24-1/1/26]	In person except for teleconferencing director(s)	In person and remote	<p>* Remote director either (1) notifies Board at earliest opportunity possible (but no more than two meetings per calendar year) of just cause (defined as childcare or caregiving of close relatives, contagious illness, physical or mental disability, or official business travel) or (2) requests remote participation as soon as possible, and Board takes action to approve such request at earliest opportunity, due to emergency circumstances (defined as physical or family medical emergency);</p> <p>* No director may participate solely by teleconference from remote locations for more than three consecutive months or 20% of</p>	<p>General requirements plus:</p> <p>* Quorum attending at physical location of meeting within District boundaries;</p> <p>* District must provide means by which public may remotely hear and visually observe meeting by either two-way audiovisual platform, two-way telephonic service and live webcasting, or both;</p> <p>* Agenda must provide info on remote access and participation;</p> <p>* Agenda shall include opportunity for public to directly address Board via call-in option, internet-based service option, and in-person option;</p> <p>* If technical difficulties, Board must not take any action on agenda items</p>



			<p>regular Board meetings within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the Board regularly meets less than ten times per calendar year.</p>	<p>until restoration of service; * Board cannot require public comments be submitted in advance of meeting and must provide opportunity for public to address Board in real time; * Public commenters may be required to register if deemed necessary by third-party remote platform; * Remotely-participating director publicly discloses before any action is taken (1) whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present at remote location and (2) general nature of director's relationship with any such individuals; * Remote director participates through both audio and visual technology.</p>
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HCSD Board of Directors  
October 3, 2022  
Page 7

If any director has any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to address such inquiries to me as appropriate during the Board meeting of October 6, 2022.

Enclosures

cc: Dr. Kimberly Cox, HCSD General Manager

## Assembly Bill No. 2449

### CHAPTER 285

An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 54953 and 54954.2 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

[Approved by Governor September 13, 2022. Filed with  
Secretary of State September 13, 2022.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2449, Blanca Rubio. Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires posting an agenda at least 72 hours before a regular meeting that contains a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, and prohibits any action or discussion from being undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The act authorizes a legislative body to take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under specified conditions. The act contains specified provisions regarding providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined.

Existing law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health.

This bill would revise and recast those teleconferencing provisions and, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements 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 this exception,

the bill would authorize a member to participate remotely under specified circumstances, including participating remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances. The emergency circumstances basis for remote participation would be contingent on a request to, and action by, the legislative body, as prescribed. The bill, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a legislative body to consider and take action on a request from a member to participate in a meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances if the request does not allow sufficient time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made. The bill would define terms for purposes of these teleconferencing provisions.

This bill would impose prescribed requirements for this exception relating to notice, agendas, the means and manner of access, and procedures for disruptions. The bill would require the legislative body to implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with federal law.

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.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 3 of Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 2021, 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.

(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. 2. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as added by Section 4 of Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 2021, 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.

(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. 3. Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, 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 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. 4. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code is amended to read:

54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the



regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

(2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site, the following provisions shall apply:

(A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.

(B) An online posting of an agenda including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.

(ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

(iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.

(C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:

(i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an Internet Web site with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.

(iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

(iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

(D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

(i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an Internet Web site of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.

(ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.

(1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

(2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).

(3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to

the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

(4) To consider action on a request from a member to participate in a meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances, pursuant to Section 54953, if the request does not allow sufficient time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made. The legislative body may approve such a request by a majority vote of the legislative body.

(c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

(d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:

(1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

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

SEC. 5. Section 54954.2 is added to the Government Code, to read:

54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

(2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site, the following provisions shall apply:

(A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.

(B) An online posting of an agenda including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:

(i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.

(ii) Platform independent and machine readable.

(iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.

(C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:

(i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an Internet Web site with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.

(iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.

(iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

(D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:

(i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an Internet Web site of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.

(ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.

(3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

(b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.

(1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.

(2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).

(3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

(c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.

(d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:

(1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are

also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

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

SEC. 6. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of 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:

By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hospital room, 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. 7. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of 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:

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

**What is different about remote meetings under AB 2449?**

Under the provisions of the recently signed AB 2449 (Rubio), agencies will not be obligated to post agendas at all teleconference locations, will not be obligated to identify all teleconference locations in the meeting agendas, and will not be obligated to make each teleconference location open to the public.

However, for an agency to proceed under the procedures established by AB 2449, it must observe the requirement that *at least* a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in-person from a singular, physical location clearly identified on the agenda, open to the public, and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. Under AB 2449, *it would not be permissible* to have the *entirety* of the board participate remotely, pursuant to the bill's provisions. Remote participation under AB 2449 must be done for specified reasons — either because of a “just cause” or as a result of “emergency circumstances.” The two cases have different requirements that must be observed and have their own unique restrictions. See table on next page for more details.

The agency must also be prepared to host a robust remote meeting — under the terms of AB 2449, an agency must provide *at least* one of the following so that the public may remotely observe the meeting and provide comments:

- A two-way audiovisual platform (defined to mean 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); and/or
- A two-way telephonic service *and* a live webcasting of the meeting (defined to mean 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)

**Under what conditions may board members use AB 2449?**

Board agency members are *individually* tasked with observing certain requirements before they can make use of AB 2449's terms. It is incumbent upon the individual board members themselves to follow certain requirements laid out in the bill; save for some overlapping obligations, the requirements differ based on whether the member's remote participation is arising out of a “just cause” or “emergency circumstances,” as shown in the table below:

### “Just Cause”

✓ 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 (typically not exceeding 20 words) of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting.

Remote participation for “just cause” reasons shall not be utilized by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.

“**Just cause**” means any of the following:

A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely

- A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person
- A need related to a physical or mental disability not otherwise accommodated
- Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency

### “Emergency Circumstances”

✓ 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 member shall make this request to participate remotely at a meeting as soon as possible. The legislative body shall request a general description (typically not exceeding 20 words) of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting.

✓ The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.

The general description of the circumstances does 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.

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 existing law.

“**Emergency circumstances**” means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.



✓ 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 individual(s).

✓ The member shall participate through *both* audio and visual technology.

Under neither case ("just cause"/"emergency circumstances") do AB 2449's provisions permit 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*

The provisions in AB 2449 are optional. There is nothing in the law that precludes an agency from observing existing Brown Act law in the conduct of their meetings.



## **AB-361 Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences.** (2021-2022)

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Date Published: 09/17/2021 09:00 PM

### **Assembly Bill No. 361**

#### CHAPTER 165

An act to add and repeal Section 89305.6 of the Education Code, and to amend, repeal, and add Section 54953 of, and to add and repeal Section 11133 of, the Government Code, relating to open meetings, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

[ Approved by Governor September 16, 2021. Filed with Secretary of State September 16, 2021. ]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 361, Robert Rivas. Open meetings: state and local agencies: teleconferences.

(1) Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act contains specified provisions regarding the timelines for posting an agenda and providing for the ability of the public to directly address the legislative body on any item of interest to the public. The act generally requires all regular and special meetings of the legislative body be held within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, subject to certain exceptions. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. The act authorizes the district attorney or any interested person, subject to certain provisions, to commence an action by mandamus or injunction for the purpose of obtaining a judicial determination that specified actions taken by a legislative body are null and void.

Existing law, the California Emergency Services Act, authorizes the Governor, or the Director of Emergency Services when the governor is inaccessible, to proclaim a state of emergency under specified circumstances.

Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspends the Ralph M. Brown Act's requirements for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic provided that notice and accessibility requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting, and that a legislative body of a local agency has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill, until January 1, 2024, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when a legislative body of a local agency

holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency, as that term is defined, when state or local health officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, during a proclaimed state of emergency held for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and during a proclaimed state of emergency when the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, as provided.

This bill would require legislative bodies that hold teleconferenced meetings under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures to give notice of the meeting and post agendas, as described, to allow members of the public to access the meeting and address the legislative body, to give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment, including an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option, and to conduct the meeting in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body. The bill would require the legislative body to take no further action on agenda items when there is a disruption which prevents the public agency from broadcasting the meeting, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control which prevents members of the public from offering public comments, until public access is restored. The bill would specify that actions taken during the disruption are subject to challenge proceedings, as specified.

This bill would prohibit the legislative body from requiring public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and would specify that the legislative body must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time. The bill would prohibit the legislative body from closing the public comment period and the opportunity to register to provide public comment, until the public comment period has elapsed or until a reasonable amount of time has elapsed, as specified. When there is a continuing state of emergency, or when state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, the bill would require a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting pursuant to these provisions, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

Existing law prohibits a legislative body from requiring, as a condition to attend a meeting, a person to register the person's name, or to provide other information, or to fulfill any condition precedent to the person's attendance.

This bill would exclude from that prohibition, a registration requirement imposed by a third-party internet website or other online platform not under the control of the legislative body.

(2) Existing law, the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a state body be open and public and all persons be permitted to attend any meeting of a state body. The act requires at least one member of the state body to be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

The Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20 suspends the requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act for teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic, provided that notice and accessibility requirements are met, the public members are allowed to observe and address the state body at the meeting, and that a state body has a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, as specified.

This bill, until January 31, 2022, would authorize, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, a state body to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the state body. With respect to a state body holding a public meeting pursuant to these provisions, the bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the state body at each teleconference location. Under the bill, a state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically would satisfy any requirement that the state body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. The bill would require that each state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing provide notice of the meeting, and post the agenda, as provided. The bill would urge state bodies utilizing these teleconferencing procedures in the bill to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to existing law, as provided.

(3) Existing law establishes the various campuses of the California State University under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, and authorizes the establishment of student body organizations in connection with the operations of California State University campuses.

The Gloria Romero Open Meetings Act of 2000 generally requires a legislative body, as defined, of a student body organization to conduct its business in a meeting that is open and public. The act authorizes the legislative body to use teleconferencing, as defined, for the benefit of the public and the legislative body in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law.

This bill, until January 31, 2022, would authorize, subject to specified notice and accessibility requirements, a legislative body, as defined for purposes of the act, to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the legislative body. With respect to a legislative body holding a public meeting pursuant to these provisions, the bill would suspend certain requirements of existing law, including the requirements that each teleconference location be accessible to the public and that members of the public be able to address the legislative body at each teleconference location. Under the bill, a legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically would satisfy any requirement that the legislative body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. The bill would require that each legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing provide notice of the meeting, and post the agenda, as provided. The bill would urge legislative bodies utilizing these teleconferencing procedures in the bill to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to existing law, as provided.

(4) This bill would declare the Legislature's intent, consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20, to improve and enhance public access to state and local agency meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future emergencies by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options.

(5) This bill would incorporate additional changes to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed by AB 339 to be operative only if this bill and AB 339 are enacted and this bill is enacted last.

(6) 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.

(7) 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.

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

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

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

**SECTION 1.** Section 89305.6 is added to the Education Code, to read:

**89305.6.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements in subdivisions (d) and (e), a legislative body may hold public meetings through teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the legislative body.

(b) (1) For a legislative body holding a public meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all requirements in this article requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the legislative body, or the public, as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting, are hereby suspended.

(2) For a legislative body holding a public meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all of the following requirements in this article are suspended:

(A) Each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting or proceeding be identified in the notice and agenda of the public meeting or proceeding.

(B) Each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

(C) Members of the public may address the legislative body at each teleconference conference location.

(D) Post agendas at all teleconference locations.

(E) At least one member of the legislative body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

(c) A legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, consistent with the notice and accessibility requirements in subdivisions (d) and (e), shall have satisfied any requirement that the legislative body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. A legislative body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment.

(d) If a legislative body holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, the legislative body shall also do both of the following:

(1) Implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

(2) Advertise that procedure each time notice is given of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e).

(e) Except to the extent this section provides otherwise, each legislative body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section shall do both of the following:

(1) Give advance notice of the time of, and post the agenda for, each public meeting according to the timeframes otherwise prescribed by this article, and using the means otherwise prescribed by this article, as applicable.

(2) In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, also give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. As to any instance in which there is a change in the means of public observation and comment, or any instance prior to the effective date of this section in which the time of the meeting has been noticed or the agenda for the meeting has been posted without also including notice of the means of public observation and comment, a legislative body may satisfy this requirement by advertising the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid means of communication available at the time. Advertising the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid means of communication available at the time shall include, but need not be limited to, posting such means on the legislative body's internet website.

(f) All legislative bodies utilizing the teleconferencing procedures in this section are urged to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to the otherwise applicable provisions of this article, in order to maximize transparency and provide the public access to legislative body meetings.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 31, 2022, and as of that date is repealed.

**SEC. 2.** Section 11133 is added to the Government Code, to read:

**11133.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements in subdivisions (d) and (e), a state body may hold public meetings through teleconferencing and make public meetings accessible telephonically, or otherwise electronically, to all members of the public seeking to observe and to address the state body.

(b) (1) For a state body holding a public meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all requirements in this article requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the state body, or the public, as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting, are hereby suspended.

(2) For a state body holding a public meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section, all of the following requirements in this article are suspended:

(A) Each teleconference location from which a member will be participating in a public meeting or proceeding be identified in the notice and agenda of the public meeting or proceeding.

(B) Each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

(C) Members of the public may address the state body at each teleconference conference location.

(D) Post agendas at all teleconference locations.

(E) At least one member of the state body be physically present at the location specified in the notice of the meeting.

(c) A state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, consistent with the notice and accessibility requirements in subdivisions (d) and (e), shall have satisfied any requirement that the state body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment. A state body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment.

(d) If a state body holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, the state body shall also do both of the following:

(1) Implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable modification or accommodation from individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12101 et seq.), and resolving any doubt whatsoever in favor of accessibility.

(2) Advertise that procedure each time notice is given of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment, pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (e).

(e) Except to the extent this section provides otherwise, each state body that holds a meeting through teleconferencing pursuant to this section shall do both of the following:

(1) Give advance notice of the time of, and post the agenda for, each public meeting according to the timeframes otherwise prescribed by this article, and using the means otherwise prescribed by this article, as applicable.

(2) In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, also give notice of the means by which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment. As to any instance in which there is a change in the means of public observation and comment, or any instance prior to the effective date of this section in which the time of the meeting has been noticed or the agenda for the meeting has been posted without also including notice of the means of public observation and comment, a state body may satisfy this requirement by advertising the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid means of communication available at the time. Advertising the means of public observation and comment using the most rapid means of communication available at the time shall include, but need not be limited to, posting such means on the state body's internet website.

(f) All state bodies utilizing the teleconferencing procedures in this section are urged to use sound discretion and to make reasonable efforts to adhere as closely as reasonably possible to the otherwise applicable provisions of this article, in order to maximize transparency and provide the public access to state body meetings.

(g) This section shall remain in effect only until January 31, 2022, and as of that date is repealed.

**SEC. 3.** Section 54953 of the Government Code 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. 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 subdivisions (d) and (e). 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) (1) 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) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

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

(C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency 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 which prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the 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 which prevents the public agency 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. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(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.

(G) (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) For the purposes of this subdivision, "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).

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

**SEC. 3.1.** Section 54953 of the Government Code 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 in person, except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Local agencies shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable state and federal civil rights laws, including, but not limited to, any applicable language access and other nondiscrimination obligations.

(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. 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 subdivisions (d) and (e). 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) (1) 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) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.

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

(C) The legislative body shall conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.

(D) In the event of a disruption which prevents the public agency 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 which prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the 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 which prevents the public agency 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. This subparagraph shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.

(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.

(G) (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) For the purposes of this subdivision, "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).

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

**SEC. 4.** Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, 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 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, 2024.

**SEC. 4.1.** Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, 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, in person except as otherwise provided in this chapter. Local agencies shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable state and federal civil rights laws, including, but not limited to, any applicable language access and other nondiscrimination obligations.

(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, 2024.

**SEC. 5.** Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of this bill incorporate amendments to Section 54953 of the Government Code proposed by both this bill and Assembly Bill 339. Those sections of this bill shall only become operative if (1) both bills are enacted and become effective on or before January 1, 2022, 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 339, in which case Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Sections 3 and 4 of this bill, shall remain operative only until the operative date of Assembly Bill 339, at which time Sections 3.1 and 4.1 of this bill shall become operative.

**SEC. 6.** It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this act to improve and enhance public access to state and local agency meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and future applicable emergencies, by allowing broader access through teleconferencing options consistent with the Governor's Executive Order No. N-29-20 dated March 17, 2020, permitting expanded use of teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**SEC. 7.** The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 3 and 4 of this act, which amend, repeal, and add Section 54953 of 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:

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

**SEC. 8.** (a) The Legislature finds and declares that during the COVID-19 public health emergency, certain requirements of the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act (Article 9 (commencing with Section 11120) of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code) were suspended by Executive Order N-29-20. Audio and video teleconference were widely used to conduct public meetings in lieu of physical location meetings, and public meetings conducted by teleconference during the COVID-19 public health emergency have been productive, have increased public participation by all members of the public regardless of their location in the state and ability to travel to physical meeting locations, have protected the health and safety of civil servants and the public, and have reduced travel costs incurred by members of state bodies and reduced work hours spent traveling to and from meetings.

(b) The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds and repeals Section 89305.6 of the Education Code, Section 2 of this act, which adds and repeals Section 11133 of the Government Code, and Sections 3 and 4 of this act, which amend, repeal, and add Section 54953 of the Government Code, all increase and potentially limit 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:

(1) By removing the requirement that public meetings be conducted at a primary physical location with a quorum of members present, this act protects the health and safety of civil servants and the public and does not preference the experience of members of the public who might be able to attend a meeting in a physical location over members of the public who cannot travel or attend that meeting in a physical location.

(2) By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hotel room, 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. 9.** 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:

In order to ensure that state and local agencies can continue holding public meetings while providing essential services like water, power, and fire protection to their constituents during public health, wildfire, or other states of emergencies, it is necessary that this act take effect immediately.



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #7  
Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Approval to Move District Funds to Additional Investment Options

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## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff seeks approval of this item.

## **Staff Report**

The Board has authorized the District's General Manager to oversee the District's investment portfolio within the guideposts of the Investment Policy. However whenever possible, a public discussion of the District's finances is preferred by Management.

In August the District opened an investment account with CLASS and moved \$2 million into the account which are showing a positive rate of return. As interest rates continue to rise, there are additional options available to diversify the District's portfolio. Management has been in discussions with Bank management and the investment bankers at Citizen's Business Bank regarding ways to reduce the monthly bank charges and explore investment opportunities within the bank. They have a suite of short to medium terms options that will fit well within the District's investment strategy of Safety-Liquidity-Yield and accomplish a reduction in monthly bank charges. Management has discussed with the auditors and our financial support firm what trends they are seeing amongst their clients. Staff's recommendation is aligned with current investment trends from other public agencies.

**Fiscal Impact:** Increased rate of return on investments.

**Possible Motion:** Authorize General Manager to diversify investments as outlined

**Attachments:** CBB Short-Term Yields/Liquidity Report for 9/21/2022

Short-term Yields/Liquidity

	<u>3 Months</u>	<u>6 Months</u>	<u>1 Yr</u>	<u>2 Yrs</u>	<u>3 Yrs</u>	<u>4 Yrs</u>	<u>5 Yrs</u>
Corporates (A)	3.85	3.94	4.12	4.35	4.42	4.50	4.58
Gov't Agency	3.80	3.80	4.10	4.40	4.75	4.85	5.00
Money Market	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11	2.11
Treasury	3.24	3.86	4.01	4.01	3.98	3.86	3.75

Citizens Trust cannot guarantee we can achieve these actual yields.

This represents approximate yields on government agency, corporate and US Treasury issues as well as money-market yields as of 9/21/2022.

Citizens Trust liquidity portfolios typically hold bonds of various categories that include both government and non-government issues.

The US Treasury yield curve has flattened and inverted.

Yields have moved up sharply across the board as the bond market prices in higher fed funds rate levels from the Federal Reserve Board. Markets have priced in additional increases for the fed funds rate in November and December.

Money-market yields should above 2.70 sometime in October after this week's 0.75 Fed increase.





# Helendale Community Services District

Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #8  
Discussion Only Regarding Review of Water Usage for Water Year 2021/2022

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

None

## **WATER RIGHTS REVIEW:**

The District has made significant investment in water resources during its history. It has been an investment to ensure sustainability for the District. When we assumed operations from the County in 2007 there was not having enough water rights to serve the annual pumping demands in WY06/07, as shown in the chart below, to a current position of having excessive water available to lease. The investment in water rights will continue to benefit the District for the foreseeable future. The purchase of water rights from the Palisades property (Safari Ranch) in WY14/15 helped increased the District's water rights ownership by XXX acre feet and provided more water than the current production demand. The District has continued to purchase water when it comes available. In 2020, a total of 148 acre-feet of Alto water was purchased. In January 2023, the District will make its final installment payment of \$185,000 on the purchase of 148 acre-feet at a cost of \$740,000 acquired in December 2020.

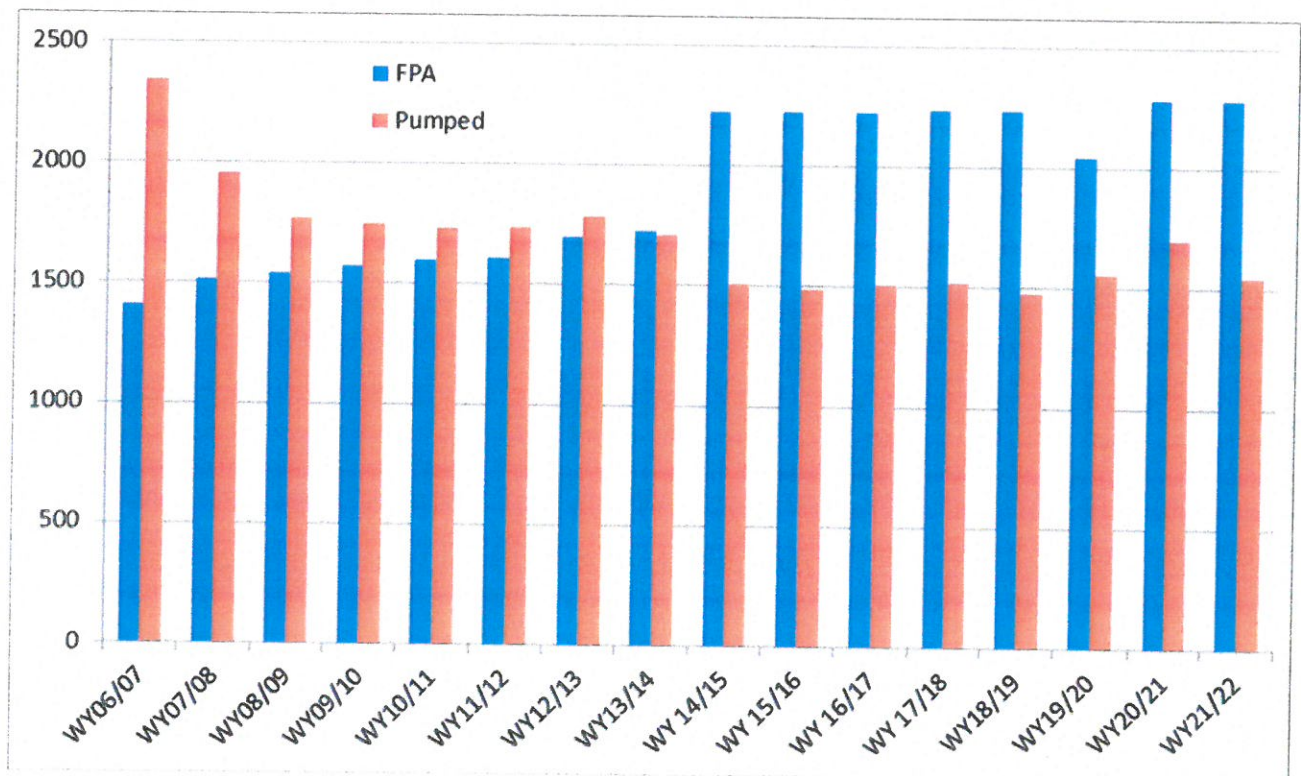
**Centro Water Rights:** The District also owns 219 Base Annual Production Rights in the Centro sub-area. This water is used to meet the annual make-up obligation. This water has been ramped down in the past three years by the Judge's order to a current 60%. Continued ramp-downs are estimated each year to a total of 40% by Water Year 29/30. The District is currently 3% of the total make up obligation. As the ramp-downs continue the usable amount of water rights will decrease thereby requiring the District to purchase additional water rights to meet the make-up obligation. Based upon an analysis of projected ramp-downs, the District will need to purchase up to 135 AF of additional Centro water rights. For the current Water Year the District has an estimated deficit of 50 acre feet. Each year the amount is determined by Wastermaster engineer and published in a draft report issued each December or January.

## **Alto Water Rights:**

The excess water production rights that the District owns above what is required to meet the needs of the District have been leased to other entities and provides an extra source of income to help offset debt service or capital projects. The Board recently approved a 5- year lease agreement for the excess water rights. The District has an estimated 741 acre-feet to lease this year. The established rate is 10% below an estimated Watermaster rate of an \$619/AF that will be

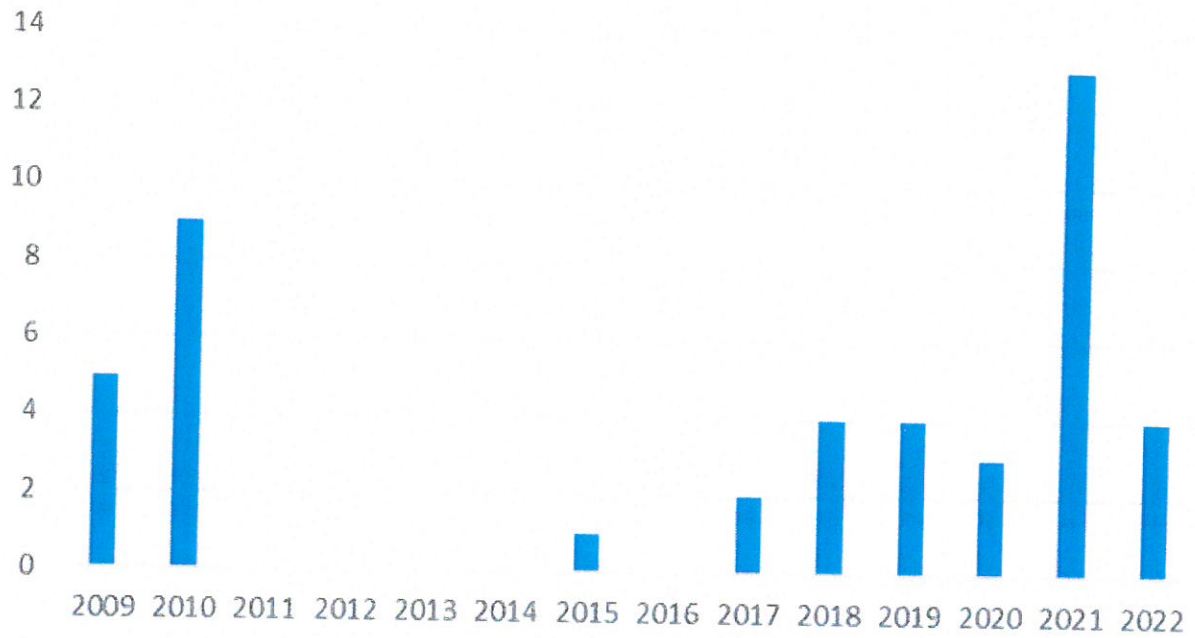
solidified by February 2023. This will provide an estimated \$400,000 of revenue for the water fund.

Over the past 14 years the District has done an excellent job reducing water related to “unaccounted for water” through proactive maintenance and the initial service line replacement program completed in 2010. As noted by the graph below, water production reduced from 1975 in WY07/08 to a current level just under 1600AF. The initial reduction in water loss was over 400 acre-feet each year due to water leaks prior to the District assuming control from the County. This was viewed as a significant issue. Further, the community has done its part in the water conservation efforts as shown by the annual average from WY10/11 through WY13/14 of 1743 which drops to an average of 1503 acre-feet per year for WY14/15 through WY18/19. This reflects an average annual reduction of over 240 acre-feet.



**Water Supply Fee:** The District collects a water supply fee for new construction that was originally instituted in May 2009 and can be modified from time to time. The current water supply fee that is used specifically for the cost of the water rights is currently \$5000 per new single-family residential dwelling unit. Since 2009 the District has had 45 houses constructed or in the process of being construction who have paid the water supply fee for a total of \$225,000 through 2022.

## Water Connections



**FISCAL IMPACT:** Revenue from the lease of excess water rights varies each year.

**POSSIBLE MOTION:** None

**ATTACHMENTS:** None



# Helendale Community Services District

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Date: October 6, 2022  
TO: Board of Directors  
FROM: Kimberly Cox, General Manager  
SUBJECT: Agenda item #9  
Discussion and Possible Action Regarding December Meeting Schedule

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## **Staff Recommendation**

Staff seeks approval of this item.

## **Staff Report**

Currently there are regular meetings scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>. President Smith's last meeting will be 12/1/22. At that meeting, Staff will plan a brief celebration to honor his years of dedicated service to the District.

The election will be certified by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at which time the directors can be sworn in prior to the 12/15 meeting. In an effort to meet the need to swear in directors and complete the AB1234 Ethics training, Staff is suggesting that the Board may wish to consider holding a special meeting on Friday, 12/2 for the swearing in of directors, appointment of officers for the upcoming year and ethics training.

**Fiscal Impact:** None

**Possible Motion:** Approve Special Meeting for December 2nd

**Attachments:** None