

March 8, 2023

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
of Orange County

FROM: Executive Officer
Assistant Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Legislative Report (March 2023)

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Carolyn Emery
Executive Officer

Scott Smith
General Counsel

BACKGROUND

As expected, since the January legislative report, proposed legislation has been moving through multiple committees represented by Senate and Assembly members, and amendments to bills are anticipated as they travel through the Capitol. During each legislative session and through its participation with the California Association of LAFCOs (CALAFCO) Legislative Committee, OC LAFCO staff identifies legislation of LAFCO interest for Commission discussion and, in some cases, adoption of positions.

For the legislative session that is currently underway, legislation of LAFCO interest includes several bills involving the Brown Act and many spot bills tagged as local government. Spot bills serve as placeholders until the authors and sponsors finalize the purpose and language of the bill. Additionally, CALAFCO has identified three legislative priorities to complete or commence during this session. The CALAFCO Legislative Committee met on February 24 to discuss these bills and priorities. Additional details and recommended positions on bills are provided within this report for Commission discussion and consideration.

NEWLY INTRODUCED LEGISLATION

ASSEMBLY BILLS

AB 557 (Hart) – Open meetings: local agencies: teleconference

Governor Newsom enacted a series of executive orders during the pandemic to allow members of a legislative body to hold meetings by teleconference during a state of emergency. One of the orders (AB 361) signed by the Governor currently allows a legislative body to hold meetings through an electronic platform that has the capabilities for audio and video, and, under limited circumstances, does not require a member of the legislative body participating remotely to identify the meeting location. AB 361 is currently set to sunset at the end 2023. AB

557 proposes to extend the provisions of AB 361, with changes to the requirement of the legislative body to make the appropriate state of emergency finding from 30 days to 45 days and does not include a sunset provision.

As AB 557 was introduced on February 8 and is expected to experience additional amendments, staff recommends the Commission adopt a **Watch** position on AB 557 at this time. The recommended position aligns with the Commission's legislative policy to watch legislation that may have an impact on the agency and is expected to be amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt **WATCH** position on AB 557.

Support: CALAFCO, California Special Districts Association

Oppose: None on Record.

BILL LOCATION/STATUS: Assembly Local Government Committee. No hearing date scheduled at the time of agenda distribution.

SENATE BILLS

SB 411 (Portantino) – Open meetings: teleconferences: bodies with appointed membership

During the 2022-23 legislative session, the Governor signed into law AB 2449, which provides the option to allow members of a legislative body to use teleconferencing to participate in meetings remotely without having to provide the teleconference address and access to the public at that location under specific and limited circumstances through January 1, 2026. SB 411 removes the sunset provision of AB 2449 and allows a legislative body (appointed board, commission, or advisory body of a local agency) to use alternate teleconference provisions similar to those enacted during the pandemic. SB 411 includes the following requirements:

- The legislative body shall provide notice of the meeting and post agendas. The agenda must include how public members may access the meeting and provide public comments through a call-in or internet-based service option.
- If there is a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to the public using call-in or internet-based service options, or prevents public comments, the legislative body shall not take any further action on items on the agenda until service is restored.
- The legislative body cannot require the public to submit comments in advance of the meeting, and public comments should be available in real time.
- Registration for a specific website or online platform not under the control of the legislative body may be required to offer public comment. If required, the legislative body

must allow enough time for members of the public to register with those online platforms during public comment and before the public comment period is closed.

As SB 411 was introduced on February 9 and is expected to experience additional amendments, staff recommends the Commission adopt a **Watch** position on SB 411 at this time. The recommended position aligns with the Commission's legislative policy to watch legislation that may have an impact on the agency and is expected to be amended.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt **WATCH** position on SB 411.

Support: CALAFCO

Oppose: None on record.

BILL LOCATION/STATUS: Senate Governance and Finance Committee. No hearing date scheduled at the time of agenda distribution.

SB 878, SB 879, SB 880 (Senate Governance and Finance Committee) – Validating Acts of 2023

During each legislative session, the Legislature adopts the annual Validating Acts to cure public officials' minor procedural errors or omissions. Authored by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee, the annual bills affect the state government, cities, counties, special districts, and LAFCOs and are enacted to retroactively fix typographical, grammatical, and procedural errors that might invalidate boundary changes or bond issues. The acts are not meant to protect against fraud, corruption, or unconstitutional acts. As the Acts would apply to related Commission actions, staff recommends the Commission adopt a **Support** position on SB 878, SB 879, and SB 880.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt **SUPPORT** position on SB 878, SB 879, and SB 880.

Support: CALAFCO

Oppose: None on record.

BILL LOCATION/STATUS: Senate Governance and Finance Committee. No hearing date scheduled at the time of agenda distribution.

CALAFCO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For the 2023 legislative session, the CALAFCO Board approved three legislative priorities, as discussed below.

❖ **Annual Omnibus Bill (Assembly Committee on Local Government).**

The 2023 Omnibus Bill proposes technical and non-substantive amendments to the following provisions within the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (“CKH Act”):

- **Delivery of Executed Resolution:** The proposed amendment would allow the Executive Officer, following an approved change of organization or reorganization, to transmit a copy of the resolution adopted by the Commission using email or electronic means. The proposed language also requires obtaining confirmation of receipt by the intended recipient.
- **Application to Initiate Proceedings:** The proposed amendment would clarify that prior to the Executive Officer deeming an application complete, any agreements for the exchange of property tax revenues required in accordance with state law must be received by LAFCO.

❖ **Proposed legislation to add clarifying language to the CKH Act on the provision of services by an agency outside of its jurisdictional boundary (Government Code Section 56133).**

To assist LAFCOs, the CKH Act delineates the process and requirements for an agency to receive approval to provide services outside its jurisdictional boundary from LAFCO. Specifically, the provision states that an extension of service may be provided outside an agency’s jurisdictional boundary but within its sphere of influence in anticipation of a later change of organization (i.e., annexation) if approved by LAFCO. The provision also allows for an extension of service to be provided outside an agency’s jurisdictional boundary and sphere of influence if proper documentation depicting a threat to the public’s health and safety is submitted to and approved by the respective LAFCO. Lastly, the provision outlines the limited exceptions to the statute, such as contracts between public agencies when the subject services are equal substitutes for services already being provided.

On January 13, 2021, the Commission received a presentation from San Diego LAFCO on their effort to seek an amendment to clarify LAFCO’s authority to determine exception status for out-of-agency arrangements per the provision in the CKH Act. At that time, the Commission generally indicated support for San Diego LAFCO’s effort and directed staff to continue monitoring of the effort. During the past two years, San Diego LAFCO, in partnership with CALAFCO, developed a white paper on the effort, conducted outreach to LAFCOs, and held preliminary discussions with the California Special Districts Association, League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and

Association of California Water Agencies. Additionally, San Diego LAFCO and CALAFCO staff have discussed the potential change to Section 56133 with legislative staff and potential bill authors. CALAFCO has established an ad-hoc committee to continue working on this multi-year effort.

❖ **Proposed legislation to add language to explicitly provide LAFCOs the authority to require indemnification from applicants.**

In part to accepting an application and similar to counties, cities and special districts, several LAFCOs require that an applicant indemnify the agency against litigation. However, in a recent ruling by the California Court of Appeals in the case of *San Luis Obispo LAFCO v. City of Pismo Beach*, the court opined that it was not the authority of San Luis Obispo LAFCO to require indemnification by the applicant as a condition for processing an application.

The CALAFCO effort is seeking the same authority that is currently granted to a county, city, or special district in State law requiring an applicant to indemnify the public agency against litigation. Because of deadlines within the Capitol, CALAFCO was unable to move this effort forward during the current session but has indicated that legislation will be pursued during the next legislative session.

SUMMARY

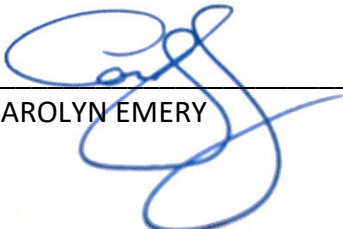
Staff will continue to monitor the proposed legislation and CALAFCO priorities discussed in this report. If immediate action by the Commission is required prior to the next legislative report, staff will coordinate the appropriate response with the OC LAFCO Chair.

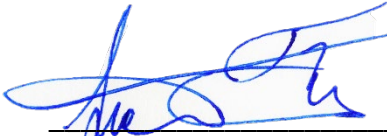
RECOMMENDED ACTION

Staff recommends the Commission:

1. Adopt positions on the following bills:
 - SB 878, 879, and 880 (**SUPPORT**)
 - AB 557 (**WATCH**)
 - SB 411 (**WATCH**)
2. Direct staff to send the letter of support to legislative representative for SB 878, 879, and 880.

Respectfully submitted,


CAROLYN EMERY


LUIS TAPIA

Attachments:

1. Assembly Bill 557 (Hart)
2. Senate Bill 441 (Portantino)
3. Senate Bill 878, 879, 880 (Senate Government Committee)

Exhibit:

- A. Letter of Support – SB 878, 879, 880

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AB-557 Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 02/08/2023 09:00 PM

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 557**Introduced by Assembly Member Hart****February 08, 2023**

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 557, as introduced, Hart. Open meetings: 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 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, as specified. If there is a continuing state of emergency, or if state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, existing law requires a legislative body to make specified findings not later than 30 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and to make those findings every 30 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

Existing law requires a legislative body that holds a teleconferenced meeting 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. Existing law prohibits a legislative body that holds

a teleconferenced meeting under these abbreviated teleconferencing procedures 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.

This bill would extend the above-described abbreviated teleconferencing provisions when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health, as specified, indefinitely. The bill would also extend the period for a legislative body to make the above-described findings related to a continuing state of emergency and social distancing to not later than 45 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and every 45 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under the abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

The bill would additionally make nonsubstantive changes to those provisions and correct erroneous cross references .

(2) 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that

requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.

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

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

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

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

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

(B) Any of the following circumstances exist:

(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~~, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~(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.~~

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:*

~~(B)~~

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

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

~~(D)~~

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

~~(E)~~

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

~~(F)~~

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

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

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

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

~~(ii)The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter~~

~~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.~~

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

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

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

(3) If a state of emergency remains active, 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 45 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 45 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

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

(B) 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) 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.~~

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

~~(5)~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

~~54953.(a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be~~

~~permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 4. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the

California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

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


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SB-411 Open meetings: teleconferences: bodies with appointed membership. (2023-2024)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 411

**Introduced by Senator Portantino
(Coauthor: Senator Menjivar)
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Luz Rivas)**

February 09, 2023

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 411, as introduced, Portantino. Open meetings: teleconferences: bodies with appointed membership.

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

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

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

This bill would authorize a legislative body to use alternate teleconferencing provisions similar to the emergency provisions indefinitely and without regard to a state of emergency. The bill would alternatively define "legislative body" for this purpose to mean a board, commission, or advisory body of a local agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed and which board, commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to the act.

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

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

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

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

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

SECTION 1. Section 54953.4 is added to the Government Code, to read:

54953.4. (a) (1) A legislative body included in subdivision (c) may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Section 54953 if the legislative body complies with paragraph (2) of this section.

(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 of a neighborhood council 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 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 (D), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.

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

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

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

(b) The legislative body shall comply with all other requirements of Section 54953.

(c) As used in this section, "legislative body" means a board, commission, or advisory body of a local agency, the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed and which board, commission, or advisory body is otherwise subject to this chapter. As used in this subdivision, "advisory body" includes, but is not limited to, a neighborhood council that is an advisory body with the purpose to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs that is established pursuant to the charter of a city with a population of more than 3,000,000 people that is subject to this chapter.

SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to the Government Code, imposes a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, audio and video teleconference were widely used to conduct public meetings in lieu of physical location meetings, and those public meetings have been productive, increased public participation by all members of the public regardless of their location and ability to travel to physical meeting locations, increased the pool of people who are able to serve on these bodies, and protected the health and safety of civil servants and the public. Extending the operation of teleconference as conducted during the COVID-19 public health emergency for bodies of local agencies with appointed membership will continue these benefits.

SEC. 3. The Legislature finds and declares that Section 1 of this act, which adds Section 54953.4 to the Government Code, furthers, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

During the COVID-19 public health emergency, audio and video teleconference were widely used to conduct public meetings in lieu of physical location meetings, and those public meetings have been productive, increased public participation by all members of the public regardless of their location and ability to travel to physical meeting locations, increased the pool of people who are able to serve on these bodies, and protected the health and safety of civil servants and the public. Extending the operation of teleconference as conducted during the COVID-19 public health emergency for bodies of local agencies with appointed membership will continue these benefits.

SEC. 4. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within the meaning of Article IV of the California Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

Virtual meetings have allowed much easier access to appointed bodies of local agencies with far more members of the public participating in each meeting. This has created greater equity in the process and fostered the health of our democracy. In-person meetings may jeopardize the health and safety of vulnerable citizens due to ongoing risks of COVID-19 and other illnesses.


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SB-878 Validations. (2023-2024)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 878

**Introduced by Committee on Governance and Finance (Senators Caballero (Chair),
Blakespear, Dahle, Durazo, Glazer, Seyarto, Skinner, and Wiener)**

February 17, 2023

An act to validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of public bodies, and to provide limitations of time in which actions may be commenced, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 878, as introduced, Committee on Governance and Finance. Validations.

This bill would enact the First Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

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

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

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the First Validating Act of 2023.

SEC. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Public body" means all of the following:

- (1) The state and all departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities of the state. Except as provided in paragraph (2), "public body" also means all cities, counties, cities and counties, districts, authorities, agencies, boards, commissions, and other entities, whether created by a general statute or a special act, including, but not limited to, the following:

Agencies, boards, commissions, or entities constituted or provided for under or pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

Affordable housing authorities.

Air pollution control districts of any kind.

Air quality management districts.

Airport districts.

Assessment districts, benefit assessment districts, and special assessment districts of any public body.

Bridge and highway districts.

California water districts.

Citrus pest control districts.

City maintenance districts.

Climate resilience districts.

Community college districts.

Community development commissions in their capacity to act as a housing authority for other community development purposes of the jurisdiction in which the commission operates, except for any action taken with respect to the commission's authority to act as a community redevelopment agency.

Community facilities districts.

Community rehabilitation districts.

Community revitalization and investment authorities.

Community services districts.

Conservancy districts.

Cotton pest abatement districts.

County boards of education.

County drainage districts.

County flood control and water districts.

County free library systems.

County maintenance districts.

County sanitation districts.

County service areas.

County transportation commissions.

County water agencies.

County water authorities.

County water districts.

County waterworks districts.

Department of Water Resources and other agencies acting pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 11100) of Division 6 of the Water Code.

Distribution districts of any public body.

Districts acting pursuant to Section 53395.82 of the Government Code.

Drainage districts.

Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.

Fire protection districts.

Flood control and water conservation districts.

Flood control districts.

Garbage and refuse disposal districts.

Garbage disposal districts.

Geologic hazard abatement districts.

Harbor districts.

Harbor improvement districts.

Harbor, recreation, and conservation districts.

Health care authorities.

Highway districts.

Highway interchange districts.

Highway lighting districts.

Housing authorities.

Improvement districts or improvement areas of any public body.

Industrial development authorities.

Infrastructure financing districts.

Integrated financing districts.

Irrigation districts.

Joint highway districts.

Levee districts.

Library districts.

Library districts in unincorporated towns and villages.

Local agency formation commissions.

Local health care districts.

Local health districts.

Local hospital districts.

Local transportation authorities or commissions.

Maintenance districts.

Memorial districts.

Metropolitan transportation commissions.

Metropolitan water districts.

Mosquito abatement and vector control districts.

Multifamily improvement districts.

Municipal improvement districts.

Municipal utility districts.

Municipal water districts.

Nonprofit corporations.

Nonprofit public benefit corporations.

Open-space maintenance districts.

Parking and business improvement areas.

Parking authorities.

Parking districts.

Permanent road divisions.

Pest abatement districts.

Police protection districts.

Port districts.

Property and business improvement areas.

Protection districts.

Public cemetery districts.

Public utility districts.

Rapid transit districts.

Reclamation districts.

Recreation and park districts.

Regional justice facility financing agencies.

Regional park and open-space districts.

Regional planning districts.

Regional transportation commissions.

Resort improvement districts.

Resource conservation districts.

River port districts.

Road maintenance districts.

Sanitary districts.

School districts of any kind or class.

School facilities improvement districts.

Separation of grade districts.

Service authorities for freeway emergencies.

Sewer districts.

Sewer maintenance districts.

Small craft harbor districts.

Special municipal tax districts.

Stone and pome fruit pest control districts.

Storm drain maintenance districts.

Storm drainage districts.

Storm drainage maintenance districts.

Stormwater districts.

Toll tunnel authorities.

Traffic authorities.

Transit development boards.

Transit districts.

Unified and union school districts' public libraries.

Vehicle parking districts.

Water agencies.

Water authorities.

Water conservation districts.

Water districts.

Water replenishment districts.

Water storage districts.

Watermaster districts.

Wine grape pest and disease control districts.

Zones, improvement zones, or service zones of any public body.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a "public body" does not include any of the following:

(A) A community redevelopment agency formed pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 commencing with Section 33000) of Division 24 of the Health and Safety Code).

(B) A community development commission, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(C) A joint powers authority that includes a community redevelopment agency or a community development commission as a member, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(3) "Public body" includes both of the following:

(A) The successor agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A successor agency, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 34171 of the Health and Safety Code, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Bonds" means all instruments evidencing an indebtedness of a public body incurred or to be incurred for any public purpose, all leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements wherein the obligor is one or more public bodies, all instruments evidencing the borrowing of money in anticipation of taxes, revenues, or other income of that body, all instruments payable from revenues or special funds of those public bodies, all certificates of participation evidencing interests in the leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements, and all instruments funding, refunding, replacing, or amending any thereof or any indebtedness.

(c) "Hereafter" means any time subsequent to the effective date of this act.

(d) "Heretofore" means any time prior to the effective date of this act.

(e) "Now" means the effective date of this act.

SEC. 3. All public bodies heretofore organized or existing under any law, or under color of any law, are hereby declared to have been legally organized and to be legally functioning as those public bodies. Every public body, heretofore described, shall have all the rights, powers, and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and obligations, of those public bodies regularly formed pursuant to law.

SEC. 4. The boundaries of every public body as heretofore established, defined, or recorded, or as heretofore actually shown on maps or plats used by the assessor, are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally established.

SEC. 5. All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by any public body or bodies under any law, or under color of any law, for the annexation or inclusion of territory into those public bodies or for the annexation of those public bodies to any other public body or for the detachment, withdrawal, or exclusion of territory from any public body or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of any public body and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the annexation or inclusion or of the withdrawal or exclusion of territory or the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of those public bodies.

SEC. 6. (a) All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by or on behalf of any public body under any law, or under color of any law, for, or in connection with, the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds of any public body for any public purpose are hereby authorized, confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of public bodies and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds.

(b) All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore issued shall be, in the form and manner issued and delivered, the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore awarded and sold to a purchaser and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with the contract of sale and other proceedings for the award and sale shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued by ordinance, resolution, order, or other action adopted or taken by or on behalf of the public body and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued at an election and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. Whenever an election has heretofore been called for the purpose of submitting to the voters of any public body the question of issuing bonds for any public purpose, those bonds, if hereafter authorized by the required vote and in accordance with the proceedings heretofore taken, and issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization, shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body.

SEC. 7. (a) This act shall operate to supply legislative authorization as may be necessary to authorize, confirm, and validate any acts and proceedings heretofore taken pursuant to authority the Legislature could have supplied or provided for in the law under which those acts or proceedings were taken.

(b) This act shall be limited to the validation of acts and proceedings to the extent that the same can be effectuated under the California Constitution and the United States Constitution.

(c) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter being legally contested or inquired into in any legal proceeding now pending and undetermined or that is pending and undetermined during the period of 30 days from and after the effective date of this act.

(d) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter that has heretofore been determined in any legal proceeding to be illegal, void, or ineffective.

(e) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize a contract between any public body and the United States.

SEC. 8. Any action or proceeding contesting the validity of any action or proceeding heretofore taken under any law, or under color of any law, for the formation, organization, or incorporation of any public body, or for any annexation thereto, detachment or exclusion therefrom, or other change of boundaries thereof, or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies, or for, or in connection with, the authorization,

issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds thereof upon any ground involving any alleged defect or illegality not effectively validated by the prior provisions of this act and not otherwise barred by any statute of limitations or by laches shall be commenced within six months of the effective date of this act, otherwise each and all of those matters shall be held to be valid and in every respect legal and incontestable. This act shall not extend the period allowed for legal action beyond the period that it would be barred by any presently existing valid statute of limitations.

SEC. 9. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed to render the creation of any public body, or any change in the boundaries of any public body, effective for purposes of assessment or taxation unless the statement, together with the map or plat, required to be filed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 54900) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, is filed within the time and substantially in the manner required by those sections.

SEC. 10. 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 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of public bodies as soon as possible, it is necessary that this act take immediate effect.


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SB-879 Validations. (2023-2024)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 879

**Introduced by Committee on Governance and Finance (Senators Caballero (Chair),
Blakespear, Dahle, Durazo, Glazer, Seyarto, Skinner, and Wiener)**

February 17, 2023

An act relating to validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of public bodies, and to provide limitations of time in which actions may be commenced, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 879, as introduced, Committee on Governance and Finance. Validations.

This bill would enact the Second Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

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

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

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Second Validating Act of 2023.

SEC. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Public body" means all of the following:

- (1) The state and all departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities of the state. Except as provided in paragraph (2), "public body" also means all cities, counties, cities and counties, districts, authorities, agencies, boards, commissions, and other entities, whether created by a general statute or a special act, including, but not limited to, the following:

Agencies, boards, commissions, or entities constituted or provided for under or pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

Affordable housing authorities.

Air pollution control districts of any kind.

Air quality management districts.

Airport districts.

Assessment districts, benefit assessment districts, and special assessment districts of any public body.

Bridge and highway districts.

California water districts.

Citrus pest control districts.

City maintenance districts.

Climate resilience districts.

Community college districts.

Community development commissions in their capacity to act as a housing authority for other community development purposes of the jurisdiction in which the commission operates, except for any action taken with respect to the commission's authority to act as a community redevelopment agency.

Community facilities districts.

Community rehabilitation districts.

Community revitalization and investment authorities.

Community services districts.

Conservancy districts.

Cotton pest abatement districts.

County boards of education.

County drainage districts.

County flood control and water districts.

County free library systems.

County maintenance districts.

County sanitation districts.

County service areas.

County transportation commissions.

County water agencies.

County water authorities.

County water districts.

County waterworks districts.

Department of Water Resources and other agencies acting pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 11100) of Division 6 of the Water Code.

Distribution districts of any public body.

Districts acting pursuant to Section 53395.82 of the Government Code.

Drainage districts.

Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.

Fire protection districts.

Flood control and water conservation districts.

Flood control districts.

Garbage and refuse disposal districts.

Garbage disposal districts.

Geologic hazard abatement districts.

Harbor districts.

Harbor improvement districts.

Harbor, recreation, and conservation districts.

Health care authorities.

Highway districts.

Highway interchange districts.

Highway lighting districts.

Housing authorities.

Improvement districts or improvement areas of any public body.

Industrial development authorities.

Infrastructure financing districts.

Integrated financing districts.

Irrigation districts.

Joint highway districts.

Levee districts.

Library districts.

Library districts in unincorporated towns and villages.

Local agency formation commissions.

Local health care districts.

Local health districts.

Local hospital districts.

Local transportation authorities or commissions.

Maintenance districts.

Memorial districts.

Metropolitan transportation commissions.

Metropolitan water districts.

Mosquito abatement and vector control districts.

Multifamily improvement districts.

Municipal improvement districts.

Municipal utility districts.

Municipal water districts.

Nonprofit corporations.

Nonprofit public benefit corporations.

Open-space maintenance districts.

Parking and business improvement areas.

Parking authorities.

Parking districts.

Permanent road divisions.

Pest abatement districts.

Police protection districts.

Port districts.

Property and business improvement areas.

Protection districts.

Public cemetery districts.

Public utility districts.

Rapid transit districts.

Reclamation districts.

Recreation and park districts.

Regional justice facility financing agencies.

Regional park and open-space districts.

Regional planning districts.

Regional transportation commissions.

Resort improvement districts.

Resource conservation districts.

River port districts.

Road maintenance districts.

Sanitary districts.

School districts of any kind or class.

School facilities improvement districts.

Separation of grade districts.

Service authorities for freeway emergencies.

Sewer districts.

Sewer maintenance districts.

Small craft harbor districts.

Special municipal tax districts.

Stone and pome fruit pest control districts.

Storm drain maintenance districts.

Storm drainage districts.

Storm drainage maintenance districts.

Storm water districts.

Toll tunnel authorities.

Traffic authorities.

Transit development boards.

Transit districts.

Unified and union school districts' public libraries.

Vehicle parking districts.

Water agencies.

Water authorities.

Water conservation districts.

Water districts.

Water replenishment districts.

Water storage districts.

Watermaster districts.

Wine grape pest and disease control districts.

Zones, improvement zones, or service zones of any public body.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a "public body" does not include any of the following:

(A) A community redevelopment agency formed pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 commencing with Section 33000) of Division 24 of the Health and Safety Code).

(B) A community development commission, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(C) A joint powers authority that includes a community redevelopment agency or a community development commission as a member, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(3) "Public body" includes both of the following:

(A) The successor agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A successor agency, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 34171 of the Health and Safety Code, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Bonds" means all instruments evidencing an indebtedness of a public body incurred or to be incurred for any public purpose, all leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements wherein the obligor is one or more public bodies, all instruments evidencing the borrowing of money in anticipation of taxes, revenues, or other income of that body, all instruments payable from revenues or special funds of those public bodies, all certificates of participation evidencing interests in the leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements, and all instruments funding, refunding, replacing, or amending any thereof or any indebtedness.

(c) "Hereafter" means any time subsequent to the effective date of this act.

(d) "Heretofore" means any time prior to the effective date of this act.

(e) "Now" means the effective date of this act.

SEC. 3. All public bodies heretofore organized or existing under any law, or under color of any law, are hereby declared to have been legally organized and to be legally functioning as those public bodies. Every public body, heretofore described, shall have all the rights, powers, and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and obligations, of those public bodies regularly formed pursuant to law.

SEC. 4. The boundaries of every public body as heretofore established, defined, or recorded, or as heretofore actually shown on maps or plats used by the assessor, are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally established.

SEC. 5. All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by any public body or bodies under any law, or under color of any law, for the annexation or inclusion of territory into those public bodies or for the annexation of those public bodies to any other public body or for the detachment, withdrawal, or exclusion of territory from any public body or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of any public body and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the annexation or inclusion or of the withdrawal or exclusion of territory or the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of those public bodies.

SEC. 6. (a) All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by or on behalf of any public body under any law, or under color of any law, for, or in connection with, the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds of any public body for any public purpose are hereby authorized, confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of public bodies and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds.

(b) All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore issued shall be, in the form and manner issued and delivered, the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore awarded and sold to a purchaser and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with the contract of sale and other proceedings for the award and sale shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued by ordinance, resolution, order, or other action adopted or taken by or on behalf of the public body and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued at an election and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. Whenever an election has heretofore been called for the purpose of submitting to the voters of any public body the question of issuing bonds for any public purpose, those bonds, if hereafter authorized by the required vote and in accordance with the proceedings heretofore taken, and issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization, shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body.

SEC. 7. (a) This act shall operate to supply legislative authorization as may be necessary to authorize, confirm, and validate any acts and proceedings heretofore taken pursuant to authority the Legislature could have supplied or provided for in the law under which those acts or proceedings were taken.

(b) This act shall be limited to the validation of acts and proceedings to the extent that the same can be effectuated under the California Constitution and the United States Constitution.

(c) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter being legally contested or inquired into in any legal proceeding now pending and undetermined or that is pending and undetermined during the period of 30 days from and after the effective date of this act.

(d) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter that has heretofore been determined in any legal proceeding to be illegal, void, or ineffective.

(e) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize a contract between any public body and the United States.

SEC. 8. Any action or proceeding contesting the validity of any action or proceeding heretofore taken under any law, or under color of any law, for the formation, organization, or incorporation of any public body, or for any annexation thereto, detachment or exclusion therefrom, or other change of boundaries thereof, or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies, or for, or in connection with, the authorization,

issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds thereof upon any ground involving any alleged defect or illegality not effectively validated by the prior provisions of this act and not otherwise barred by any statute of limitations or by laches shall be commenced within six months of the effective date of this act, otherwise each and all of those matters shall be held to be valid and in every respect legal and incontestable. This act shall not extend the period allowed for legal action beyond the period that it would be barred by any presently existing valid statute of limitations.

SEC. 9. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed to render the creation of any public body, or any change in the boundaries of any public body, effective for purposes of assessment or taxation unless the statement, together with the map or plat, required to be filed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 54900) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, is filed within the time and substantially in the manner required by those sections.

SEC. 10. This act shall become operative on September 1, 2023.

SEC. 11. 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 Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

In order to validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of public bodies as soon as possible, it is necessary that this act take immediate effect.


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SB-880 Validations. (2023-2024)

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CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL

NO. 880

**Introduced by Committee on Governance and Finance (Senators Caballero (Chair),
Blakespear, Dahle, Durazo, Glazer, Seyarto, Skinner, and Wiener)**

February 17, 2023

An act to validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of public bodies, and to provide limitations of time in which actions may be commenced.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 880, as introduced, Committee on Governance and Finance. Validations.

This bill would enact the Third Validating Act of 2023, which would validate the organization, boundaries, acts, proceedings, and bonds of the state and counties, cities, and specified districts, agencies, and entities.

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

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

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Third Validating Act of 2023.

SEC. 2. As used in this act:

(a) "Public body" means all of the following:

(1) The state and all departments, agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities of the state. Except as provided in paragraph (2), "public body" also means all cities, counties, cities and counties, districts, authorities, agencies, boards, commissions, and other entities, whether created by a general statute or a special act, including, but not limited to, the following:

Agencies, boards, commissions, or entities constituted or provided for under or pursuant to the Joint Exercise of Powers Act (Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 6500) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code).

Affordable housing authorities.

Air pollution control districts of any kind.

Air quality management districts.

Airport districts.

Assessment districts, benefit assessment districts, and special assessment districts of any public body.

Bridge and highway districts.

California water districts.

Citrus pest control districts.

City maintenance districts.

Climate resilience districts.

Community college districts.

Community development commissions in their capacity to act as a housing authority for other community development purposes of the jurisdiction in which the commission operates, except for any action taken with respect to the commission's authority to act as a community redevelopment agency.

Community facilities districts.

Community rehabilitation districts.

Community revitalization and investment authorities.

Community services districts.

Conservancy districts.

Cotton pest abatement districts.

County boards of education.

County drainage districts.

County flood control and water districts.

County free library systems.

County maintenance districts.

County sanitation districts.

County service areas.

County transportation commissions.

County water agencies.

County water authorities.

County water districts.

County waterworks districts.

Department of Water Resources and other agencies acting pursuant to Part 3 (commencing with Section 11100) of Division 6 of the Water Code.

Distribution districts of any public body.

Districts acting pursuant to Section 53395.82 of the Government Code.

Drainage districts.

Enhanced infrastructure financing districts.

Fire protection districts.

Flood control and water conservation districts.

Flood control districts.

Garbage and refuse disposal districts.

Garbage disposal districts.

Geologic hazard abatement districts.

Harbor districts.

Harbor improvement districts.

Harbor, recreation, and conservation districts.

Health care authorities.

Highway districts.

Highway interchange districts.

Highway lighting districts.

Housing authorities.

Improvement districts or improvement areas of any public body.

Industrial development authorities.

Infrastructure financing districts.

Integrated financing districts.

Irrigation districts.

Joint highway districts.

Levee districts.

Library districts.

Library districts in unincorporated towns and villages.

Local agency formation commissions.

Local health care districts.

Local health districts.

Local hospital districts.

Local transportation authorities or commissions.

Maintenance districts.

Memorial districts.

Metropolitan transportation commissions.

Metropolitan water districts.

Mosquito abatement and vector control districts.

Multifamily improvement districts.

Municipal improvement districts.

Municipal utility districts.

Municipal water districts.

Nonprofit corporations.

Nonprofit public benefit corporations.

Open-space maintenance districts.

Parking and business improvement areas.

Parking authorities.

Parking districts.

Permanent road divisions.

Pest abatement districts.

Police protection districts.

Port districts.

Property and business improvement areas.

Protection districts.

Public cemetery districts.

Public utility districts.

Rapid transit districts.

Reclamation districts.

Recreation and park districts.

Regional justice facility financing agencies.

Regional park and open-space districts.

Regional planning districts.

Regional transportation commissions.

Resort improvement districts.

Resource conservation districts.

River port districts.

Road maintenance districts.

Sanitary districts.

School districts of any kind or class.

School facilities improvement districts.

Separation of grade districts.

Service authorities for freeway emergencies.

Sewer districts.

Sewer maintenance districts.

Small craft harbor districts.

Special municipal tax districts.

Stone and pome fruit pest control districts.

Storm drain maintenance districts.

Storm drainage districts.

Storm drainage maintenance districts.

Storm water districts.

Toll tunnel authorities.

Traffic authorities.

Transit development boards.

Transit districts.

Unified and union school districts' public libraries.

Vehicle parking districts.

Water agencies.

Water authorities.

Water conservation districts.

Water districts.

Water replenishment districts.

Water storage districts.

Watermaster districts.

Wine grape pest and disease control districts.

Zones, improvement zones, or service zones of any public body.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a "public body" does not include any of the following:

(A) A community redevelopment agency formed pursuant to the Community Redevelopment Law (Part 1 commencing with Section 33000) of Division 24 of the Health and Safety Code).

(B) A community development commission, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(C) A joint powers authority that includes a community redevelopment agency or a community development commission as a member, with respect to its exercise of the powers of a community redevelopment agency.

(3) "Public body" includes both of the following:

(A) The successor agency to the Redevelopment Agency of the City and County of San Francisco, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.7 of the Health and Safety Code.

(B) A successor agency, as defined in subdivision (j) of Section 34171 of the Health and Safety Code, solely for the purpose of issuing bonds or incurring other indebtedness pursuant to the provisions of Section 34177.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

(b) "Bonds" means all instruments evidencing an indebtedness of a public body incurred or to be incurred for any public purpose, all leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements wherein the obligor is one or more public bodies, all instruments evidencing the borrowing of money in anticipation of taxes, revenues, or other income of that body, all instruments payable from revenues or special funds of those public bodies, all certificates of participation evidencing interests in the leases, installment purchase agreements, or similar agreements, and all instruments funding, refunding, replacing, or amending any thereof or any indebtedness.

(c) "Hereafter" means any time subsequent to the effective date of this act.

(d) "Heretofore" means any time prior to the effective date of this act.

(e) "Now" means the effective date of this act.

SEC. 3. All public bodies heretofore organized or existing under any law, or under color of any law, are hereby declared to have been legally organized and to be legally functioning as those public bodies. Every public body, heretofore described, shall have all the rights, powers, and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and obligations, of those public bodies regularly formed pursuant to law.

SEC. 4. The boundaries of every public body as heretofore established, defined, or recorded, or as heretofore actually shown on maps or plats used by the assessor, are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally established.

SEC. 5. All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by any public body or bodies under any law, or under color of any law, for the annexation or inclusion of territory into those public bodies or for the annexation of those public bodies to any other public body or for the detachment, withdrawal, or exclusion of territory from any public body or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies are hereby confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of any public body and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the annexation or inclusion or of the withdrawal or exclusion of territory or the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of those public bodies.

SEC. 6. (a) All acts and proceedings heretofore taken by or on behalf of any public body under any law, or under color of any law, for, or in connection with, the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds of any public body for any public purpose are hereby authorized, confirmed, validated, and declared legally effective. This shall include all acts and proceedings of the governing board of public bodies and of any person, public officer, board, or agency heretofore done or taken upon the question of the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds.

(b) All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore issued shall be, in the form and manner issued and delivered, the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore awarded and sold to a purchaser and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with the contract of sale and other proceedings for the award and sale shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued by ordinance, resolution, order, or other action adopted or taken by or on behalf of the public body and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. All bonds of, or relating to, any public body heretofore authorized to be issued at an election and hereafter issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body. Whenever an election has heretofore been called for the purpose of submitting to the voters of any public body the question of issuing bonds for any public purpose, those bonds, if hereafter authorized by the required vote and in accordance with the proceedings heretofore taken, and issued and delivered in accordance with that authorization, shall be the legal, valid, and binding obligations of the public body.

SEC. 7. (a) This act shall operate to supply legislative authorization as may be necessary to authorize, confirm, and validate any acts and proceedings heretofore taken pursuant to authority the Legislature could have supplied or provided for in the law under which those acts or proceedings were taken.

(b) This act shall be limited to the validation of acts and proceedings to the extent that the same can be effectuated under the California Constitution and the United States Constitution.

(c) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter being legally contested or inquired into in any legal proceeding now pending and undetermined or that is pending and undetermined during the period of 30 days from and after the effective date of this act.

(d) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize any act, proceeding, or other matter that has heretofore been determined in any legal proceeding to be illegal, void, or ineffective.

(e) This act shall not operate to authorize, confirm, validate, or legalize a contract between any public body and the United States.

SEC. 8. Any action or proceeding contesting the validity of any action or proceeding heretofore taken under any law, or under color of any law, for the formation, organization, or incorporation of any public body, or for any annexation thereto, detachment or exclusion therefrom, or other change of boundaries thereof, or for the consolidation, merger, or dissolution of any public bodies, or for, or in connection with, the authorization, issuance, sale, execution, delivery, or exchange of bonds thereof upon any ground involving any alleged defect or illegality not effectively validated by the prior provisions of this act and not otherwise barred by any statute of

limitations or by laches shall be commenced within six months of the effective date of this act, otherwise each and all of those matters shall be held to be valid and in every respect legal and incontestable. This act shall not extend the period allowed for legal action beyond the period that it would be barred by any presently existing valid statute of limitations.

SEC. 9. Nothing contained in this act shall be construed to render the creation of any public body, or any change in the boundaries of any public body, effective for purposes of assessment or taxation unless the statement, together with the map or plat, required to be filed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 54900) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code, is filed within the time and substantially in the manner required by those sections.

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March 8, 2022

Honorable Anna Caballero, Chair
Senate Governance and Finance Committee
State Capitol, Room 408
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: **Support** – SB 878, SB 879, SB 880: Validating Acts of 2023

Dear Chair Caballero:

The Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (OC LAFCO) is pleased to support Senate Bills 878, 879, and 880, authored by the Senate Governance and Finance Committee.

Also known as the Validating Acts of 2023, these measures help all public agencies because they protect investors from minor errors that might otherwise threaten boundary changes, bonds, and other official acts. As in the past years, the passage of these bills will ensure that municipal bonds receive the highest possible rating, resulting in the lowest possible borrowing costs for California residents.

OC LAFCO appreciates the Committee's effort in authoring these important bills.

Respectfully,

Douglass Davert
Chair

cc: René LaRoche, Executive Director, CALAFCO