



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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February 10, 2025

The Honorable Jesse Arreguín
California State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 6710
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 239 (Arreguín) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body. – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Arreguín,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of your measure SB 239. The Ralph M. Brown Act (Act) generally requires that all meetings of a legislative body, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate and if a local agency elects to use teleconferencing then they must post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public.

AB 239 would do the following:

- Authorize a subsidiary body, to use alternative teleconferencing provisions and would impose requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed.
- Require the subsidiary body to post the agenda at the primary physical meeting location.
- Require the members of the subsidiary body to visibly appear on camera during the open portion of a meeting that is publicly accessible via the internet or other online platform, as specified.
- Require the subsidiary body to list a member who participates in a teleconference meeting from a remote location in the minutes of the meeting.
- Require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body electing to use teleconferencing pursuant to these provisions to establish the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.
- Require the subsidiary body to approve the use of teleconference by 2/3 vote before using teleconference pursuant to these provisions.

The County of Monterey Board of Supervisors regularly notices, holds, and conducts all its meetings in accordance with the Act. Using alternative teleconferencing makes it possible for a wider group of county residents to participate in any dialogue about county matters. Offering remote access allows the County to comply with the Act but also ensures persons with disabilities, illnesses, transportation challenges, busy schedules, child-care limitations, and myriads of other limitations, have a means of being included. This ensures disparate views and input are provided on government transactions.

SB 239 allows subsidiary bodies to use alternative teleconferencing provisions, requiring public notice, agenda posting, and camera visibility during meetings provided there is a 2/3 approval. This bill would allow government entities, including County of Monterey, to conduct business in an inclusive and safe manner for its resident. Therefore, the County of Monterey supports SB 239.



Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Monterey County's Public Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker of Nossaman LLP, at 916-442-8888.

Sincerely,

DRAFT

Chris M. Lopez, Chair

Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable John Laird, 17th Senate District
The Honorable Robert Rivas, 29th Assembly District
The Honorable Dawn Addis, 30th Assembly District
California State Association of Counties (CSAC)
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)