



County of Monterey

Board of Supervisors

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February 10, 2025

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5250
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 259 (Rubio) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio,

On behalf of the County of Monterey, I am writing in support of your measure AB 259. 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. Until January 1, 2026, 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 259 would remove the January 1, 2026, sunset date from those provisions, thereby extending the alternative teleconferencing procedures indefinitely.

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 and make their voices known. 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.

AB 259 would remove the 2026 sunset for teleconferencing provisions, making them permanent. Teleconferencing is a vital format for County of Monterey, to conduct government meetings ensuring business is transacted in an inclusive and safe manner for all residents. Therefore, the County of Monterey supports AB 259.

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)



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