



## ***Memo***

---

To: Board of Directors  
From: Josselyn Quine  
Date: March 7, 2025  
Subject: Call to Action - AB 259

*CSDA has issued an important "Call to Action" on AB 259 and respectfully request our District to send a letter of support. Below you will find the information. A sample letter is attached.*

### **AB 259**

In 2022, the Legislature passed [Assembly Bill 2449 \(Rubio\)](#), a bill related to the Ralph M. Brown Act ("the Brown Act"). Beginning in 2023, local agencies were provided with alternative Brown Act meeting procedures able to be observed in the event of a board member's absence in connection with a "just cause" or "emergency circumstances," allowing for those members so-affected to participate in the meeting remotely consistent with the process detailed in the bill. Since that time, several special districts and other local agencies have utilized the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for legislative policymakers that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency.

Though the terms of AB 2449 have been amended since their passage (most notably by [Assembly Bill 2302 \(Addis, 2024\)](#)), the sunset date associated with its terms has not been changed; the alternative Brown Act meeting procedures established by the bill expire at the end of 2025. To avoid this outcome and preserve the meeting flexibility provided by AB 2449, CSDA is sponsoring legislation to remove the sunset associated with the bill. CSDA is partnering with the office of Assembly Member Blanca Rubio (D-Baldwin Park), author of the original bill, to run this legislation.

[Agency Letterhead]

March 7, 2025

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

**RE: Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio) – Support [As Introduced]**

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The [Agency Name] is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259, related to the Ralph M. Brown Act. [Insert a brief description of your agency, particularly the services it provides.]

Recognizing the evolving landscape of public meetings and the demonstrated value of remote participation options when members of governing bodies are unable to attend a physical gathering, your office introduced, and the Legislature passed, Assembly Bill 2449 in 2022, which amended the Ralph M. Brown Act. Beginning in 2023, special districts and other local agencies began using the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for officials that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. The provisions of that bill, having been negotiated by civil society groups and local government stakeholders, contained numerous safeguards and requirements, including the presence of an in-person quorum at the official meeting location. [If applicable, describe an occasion or two where members of your agency used AB 2449 to positive effect, and the beneficial impact of the participation of the remote members.]

While the provisions added by AB 2449 were modified slightly by technical amendments made by subsequent legislation, the January 1, 2026 sunset included in the original bill remains. To preserve the flexibility provided by your AB 2449, Assembly Bill 259 would eliminate this sunset date, thereby preserving indefinitely the remote meeting procedures added by the earlier legislation. AB 259 would not otherwise change any other elements of the remote meeting provisions.

For these reasons, [Agency Name] is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

[Printed Name]

[Title]

[Agency Name]

CC: [Your local Assembly Member]

[Your local Senator]

Marcus Detwiler, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@cdda.net]