

June 6, 2022



Dan York, Chair  
Tony Firenzi, Vice  
Chair

The Honorable Blanca Rubio  
1021 O Street, Suite 5140  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0048

**RE: AB 2449 (Rubio, B.): Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences**

**Members**

California American Water  
Carmichael Water District  
Citrus Heights Water District  
Del Paso Manor Water District  
El Dorado Irrigation District  
Elk Grove Water District  
Fair Oaks Water District  
Folsom, City of  
Golden State Water Company  
Lincoln, City of  
Nevada Irrigation District  
Orange Vale Water Company  
Placer County Water Agency  
Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
Roseville, City of  
Sacramento, City of  
Sacramento County Water Agency  
Sacramento Suburban Water District  
San Juan Water District  
West Sacramento, City of  
Yuba City, City of

**Position: Support**

Dear Assemblymember Rubio,

On behalf of the Regional Water Authority (RWA), I write to express our **SUPPORT** for AB 2449, as amended May 23, 2022, relating to teleconference requirements for meetings held by local agencies.

RWA is a joint powers agency representing 21 public water suppliers in Sacramento, Placer, El Dorado, Yolo, Nevada, Yuba, and Sutter counties. Collectively, RWA members manage water that comprises nearly 20 percent of the water that flows into the Delta, which provides some or all the water to 30 million Californians and 6 million acres of agricultural land. RWA's mission is to "serve, represent and align the interests of regional water providers and stakeholders for the purpose of improving water supply reliability, availability, quality and affordability." Access to RWA and RWA member meetings is essential to advancing the RWA's mission.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began and stay-at-home orders were implemented, many local agencies transitioned to remote participation options for conducting meetings. Through Executive Order N-29-20, Governor Newsom stated that local agencies could still comply with open meeting laws if notice and accessibility requirements are met, members of the public can observe and address the legislative body at the meeting, and that the legislative body provide a procedure for receiving and quickly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities. Governor Newsom's executive order was beneficial to local agencies trying to conform with the Brown Act's public accessibility requirement during this pandemic, and it allowed the public to access and participate in meetings remotely.

Although the order has since expired, AB 361 (Chapter 165, Statutes of 2021), which sunsets on January 1, 2024, permits local agencies to continue to meet virtually and remotely during a state-declared emergency without being required to have a quorum present and abide by other requirements of teleconference meeting under the Brown Act. AB 2449 is an attempt plan for the eventual expiration of AB 361 and modernize remote meeting requirements in a way that utilizes technical capabilities that agencies have incorporated during the pandemic. The bill would provide an alternative to the existing concept of teleconference locations while creating an opportunity for the public to participate remotely.

**Associates**

County of Placer  
El Dorado County Water Agency  
Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency  
Sacramento Municipal Utility District  
Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
Yuba Water Agency

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For the above reasons RWA supports AB 2449. If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Ryan Ojakian of RWA's staff at (916) 967-7692 or [rojakian@rwah2o.org](mailto:rojakian@rwah2o.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Peifer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Peifer  
Executive Director