

March 5, 2026 (Agenda)

Local Agency Formation Commission
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara CA 93101

Brown Act Teleconferencing Resolution

Dear Members of the Commission:

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission approve the attached resolution authorizing commissioners to utilize Government Code section 54953.8.7, teleconferencing for eligible multijurisdictional bodies.

DISCUSSION

Effective January 1, 2026, Senate Bill 707 amended the Brown Act to add several new provisions, including Government Code section 54953.8.7. This new section provides that an eligible multijurisdictional body may conduct a teleconference meeting pursuant to Government Code section 54953.8, provided that it complies with the requirements of that Section and all of the following additional requirements:

- (1) The eligible multijurisdictional body has adopted a resolution that authorizes the eligible multijurisdictional body to use teleconferencing pursuant to this section at a regular meeting in open session.
- (2) At least a quorum of the members of the eligible multijurisdictional body shall participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.
- (3) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who receives compensation for their service on the eligible multijurisdictional body shall participate from a physical location that is open to the public. For purposes of this paragraph, “compensation” does not include reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses.
- (4) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body may participate from a remote location provided that:
 - (A) The eligible multijurisdictional body identifies each member of the eligible multijurisdictional body who plans to participate remotely in the agenda.
 - (B) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.
- (5) A member of the eligible multijurisdictional body shall not participate in a meeting remotely pursuant to this section, unless the location from which the member

participates is more than 20 miles each way from any physical location of the meeting described in paragraph (2).

- (6) The provisions of this section 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 more than the following number of meetings, as applicable:
- (A) Two meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets once per month or less.
 - (B) Five meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets twice per month.
 - (C) Seven meetings per year, if the legislative body regularly meets three or more times per month.
 - (D) For the purpose of counting meetings attended by teleconference under this paragraph, a “meeting” shall be defined as any number of meetings of the legislative body of a local agency that begin on the same calendar day.

The Commission falls within the definition of an eligible multijurisdictional body.

BACKGROUND

The Commission may only use this new teleconferencing option in Government Code section 54953.8.7 for meetings if the Commission adopts the attached resolution and complies with the requirements in the Brown Act, as noted above. This new teleconferencing option is available until January 1, 2030.

Attachment

Attachment A – Resolution Authorizing Teleconferencing for Multijurisdictional Bodies

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Amber Holderness
LAFCO Legal Counsel

RESOLUTION OF THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION AUTHORIZING COMMISSIONERS TO PARTICPATE IN
TELECONFERENCING FOR ELIGIBLE MULTIJURISDICTIONAL BODIES PURSUANT
TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953.8.7

WHEREAS, the Santa Barbara Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the “Commission,” was formed pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code section 56000 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 707 (2025) added Government Code section 54953.8.7 to the Brown Act effective January 1, 2026, to allow eligible multijurisdictional bodies to engage in the teleconferencing provided under that provision if the body has adopted a resolution at a regular meeting authorizing the use of Section 54953.8.7; and

WHEREAS, the Commission meets the definition of an ‘eligible multijurisdictional body’ pursuant to Government Code section 54953.8.7(b); and

WHEREAS, the Commission desires to allow the use of this type of teleconferencing; and

WHEREAS, the Commission considered authorizing said teleconferencing in open session at the Commission’s regular meeting of March 5, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Commission as follows:

- (1) The Commission authorizes the use of teleconferencing under Government Code section 54953.8.7, for as long as the section remains effective.
- (2) Any Commissioner may engage in teleconferencing under Government Code section 54953.8.7, provided said Commissioner complies with all applicable requirements of the Brown Act.

This resolution is hereby adopted this 5th day of March, 2026 in Santa Barbara, California.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Santa Barbara County Local Agency
Formation Commission

By: _____
Chair Stark

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Ila Fennell, Commission Clerk
Santa Barbara County
Local Agency Formation Commission