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April 4, 2025

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
Chairman, Assembly Local Government Committee
1021 O Street, Ste. 5610
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT – AB 259 (Rubio), Open Meetings, Local Agencies, Teleconferences

Dear Chairman Carrillo,

On behalf of the Solano County Board of Supervisors, I write in support of AB 259, which would eliminate the sunset on provisions added to the Brown Act by AB 2449 (Rubio, 2022), a bill that provided additional flexibility for Brown Act meeting procedures.

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, the Legislature passed AB 2449 in 2022, which amended the Ralph M. Brown Act. Beginning in 2023, local agencies began using the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for officials that would otherwise have been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. Further, the provisions of AB 2449 contained numerous safeguards and requirements, including the presence of an in-person quorum at the official meeting location.

In Solano County, the added flexibility AB 2449 has created allows for constituents to engage with their representatives in circumstances where they may not have been able to do so previously. Solano County has also benefited from the administrative advantages of this law on several occasions, such as when critical action items were on a meeting agenda and a board member, who was unable to attend in person, could still participate in the discussion and vote under the provisions of AB 2449.

However, although the terms of AB 2449 have been amended since their passage, the sunset date associated with its terms has not changed, and the alternative Brown Act meeting procedures established by the bill will expire at the end of 2025. Therefore, Solano County supports AB 259 and the indefinite extension of the alternative teleconferencing procedures, as this will help maintain the additional flexibility for individual board members of local agencies seeking to meet remotely and it will allow them to continue providing essential services to the public.

For these reasons, Solano County is pleased to support AB 259 and respectfully requests your "Aye" vote on this measure.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mitch N. Mashburn".

Mitch Mashburn, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

The Honorable Juan Carrillo
AB 259 / Solano County Board of Supervisors

CC:

Members of the Assembly Local Government Committee
The Honorable Blanca Rubio, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Christopher Cabaldon, California State Senator
The Honorable Lori Wilson, California State Assemblymember
The Honorable Solano County Board of Supervisors
Paragon Government Relations
Karen Lange, SYASL Partners, Inc.