

Remote Meeting Options – California Brown Act (Advisory Committees)

Option	What It Is	When It Applies	Key Requirements	Pros	Limitations
Traditional Teleconference (Gov. Code 54953(b))	Members participate from publicly noticed remote locations	Always available (standard Brown Act rule)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda must list each remote location • Each location must be open to the public • Public must be able to comment from each location • Quorum within jurisdiction • Votes by roll call 	Always available; no sunset date	Requires posting home addresses; locations open to public; burdensome for volunteers
Just Cause / Emergency Remote Participation (AB 2449 framework)	Individual member participates remotely for specific reasons	When a member has “just cause” or emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member must notify body • Limited number of uses per year • Majority of quorum must be in-person • Public must have remote access • Roll call votes 	Protects participation during illness, caregiving, etc.	Not full remote body; limits on frequency; requires in-person quorum
Emergency Circumstances (State of Emergency)	Fully remote meetings during declared emergencies	During officially proclaimed state of emergency impacting meeting safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal findings required • Public access provided • Periodic renewal of findings 	Allows fully remote without in-person quorum	Only during declared emergency; procedural requirements
SB 707 – Eligible Subsidiary Body (Advisory Committees)	Fully remote meetings for qualifying advisory bodies	When Board adopts required findings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board resolution with findings (renewed every 6 months) • Public notified and given opportunity to comment before approval • Two-way audio/video public access • Members remain on camera • No need to post home addresses • Physical public location still required 	Best option for volunteer advisory committees; improves recruitment & accessibility; no reason required for remote participation	Requires Board findings and 6-month renewal; still must provide physical public access site