

April 28, 2023



**MINUTES OF THE**  
**GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**/COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**These minutes are supplemented by the audio recording that is posted online at:**  
**<https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents>.**

Honorable Board of Directors  
Golden Gate Bridge, Highway  
and Transportation District

Honorable Members:

A meeting of the Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee (Committee)/Committee of the Whole of the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District (District) was held at the United Irish Cultural Center, St. Francis Room, 2700 45th Avenue, San Francisco, CA, on Friday, April 28, 2023, at 9:38 a.m., Chair Cochran presiding. A remote audio option for public participation was available.

- (1) **Call to Order:** 9:38 a.m.
- (2) **Roll Call:** Secretary of the District Amorette M. Ko-Wong.

**Committee Members Present (5):** Chair Cochran; Directors Garbarino, Giudice, and Hill; President Thériault.

**Committee Members Absent (3):** Vice Chair Snyder; Directors Rodoni and Stefani.

**Other Directors Present (6):** Directors Dorsey, Grosboll, Hernández, Rabbitt, Safaí and Thier.

**Committee of the Whole Members Present (11):** Directors Dorsey, Garbarino, Giudice, Grosboll, Hernández, Rabbitt, Safaí and Thier; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Thériault.

**Committee of the Whole Members Absent (8):** Directors Conroy, Engardio, Mastin, Moulton-Peters, Pahre, Rodoni, Snyder and Stefani.

**Staff Present:** General Manager Denis Mulligan; Auditor-Controller Joseph Wire; Secretary of the District Amorette Ko-Wong; Attorney Kimon Manolius; Deputy General Manager/Bridge Division David Rivera; Deputy General Manager/Bus Transit Division

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Mona Babauta; Deputy General Manager/Ferry Division Michael Hoffman; Deputy General Manager/Administration and Development Kellee Hopper; Executive Administrator to the General Manager Justine Bock; Senior Board Analyst Elizabeth Eells.

A copy of the report is available on the District's web site at <https://www.goldengate.org/district/board-of-directors/meeting-documents> or upon request from the Office of the District Secretary.

**(3) State Update from the District's Legislative Advocates, Platinum Advisors, LLC [00:25 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Steve Wallauch of Platinum Advisors, LLC presented the State Update. He reviewed legislative activity related to the budget and tax revenue. He overviewed the California Transit Association (CTA) proposal for funding transit operations. He said that legislators may require transit operators to meet performance measures and submit reports in exchange for funding.

He reviewed the Brown Act related bills including Assembly Bill (AB) 557, AB 817, AB 1379, Senate Bill (SB) 411 and SB 537, and a few other bills.

**[02:14 and 12:43 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

Chair Cochran inquired about the effect of the delay in the tax returns and the scope of SB 411.

Mr. Wallauch responded to the Director's inquiries. He said that, as a result of the delayed tax returns and revenue, the state budget deficit could be as high as \$30 billion. He confirmed SB 411 applies to Los Angeles.

The following individuals spoke under public comment: **[09:55 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident (in person)
- Jim Mastin, as a member of the public, Director and Mendocino County Resident (remotely)

**(4) Discussion and Possible Action Regarding the Brown Act-Related Bills [13:42 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

General Manager Denis Mulligan presented the staff report. He highlighted some key legislation proposing to amend the Brown Act, including AB 817 and SB 537.

**[Director Dorsey arrived.]**

**[16:48 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

**Directors GROSBOLL/HERNANDEZ** moved and seconded to recommend that the Board support SB 537.

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**Directors GROSBOLL/HERNANDEZ** moved and seconded to amend their motion to recommend that the Board support SB 537 and AB 817.

Director Hill commented about increased attendance at the District's Advisory Committee meetings while such meetings were held by telephone and other electronic means (remotely).

Director Garbarino inquired about SB 537.

President Theriault inquired about the possibility that SB 537 and AB 817 could be amended.

**Directors GROSBOLL/HERNANDEZ** moved and seconded to further amend their motion to recommend that the Board approve support for SB 537 and AB 817 as currently drafted and amended, and other bills relative to the Brown Act with similar goals: a) advisory committees could meet remotely and b) regional legislative body members could attend remotely if they have to travel a long way to reach the meeting in person.

Director Grosboll inquired about the SB 537 bill and the 40-mile rule.

Director Rabbitt said that his home is 41 miles away from the Board's current meeting location. He commented about the value of attending meetings in person and expressed support for AB 817.

Chair Cochran inquired about the possibility that SB 537 and AB 817 could change.

**[Director Safaí arrived.]**

Mr. Wallauch and Mr. Mulligan responded to the Directors' comments and inquiries. Mr. Wallauch said that the bills specify members that attend remotely must be seen (on video) as well as heard. Mr. Mulligan said that the Board could approve advocacy of bills with the same general goals of AB 817 and SB 537: a) advisory committees could meet remotely and b) regional legislative body members could attend remotely if they have to travel a long way to reach the in-person meeting. Mr. Wallauch clarified that, as amended, SB 537 states that if a meeting location is more than 40 miles away from a legislative body member's office, he or she can participate remotely. He acknowledged that the bills could change further.

The following individuals spoke under public comment: **[23:44 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

- David Pilpel, San Francisco Resident (in person)
- Jim Mastin, as a member of the public, Director and Mendocino County Resident (remotely)

**(a) Action by the Committee**

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Staff recommended and the Committee concurred by motion made and seconded by Directors GROSBOLL/HERNÁNDEZ to forward the following recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration:

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee/Committee of the Whole recommends that the Board of Directors approve support for Senate Bill 537 and Assembly Bill 817 as currently drafted and amended, and other bills relative to the Brown Act with similar goals: a) advisory committees could meet remotely and b) regional legislative body members could attend remotely if they have to travel a long way to reach the meeting in person.

**Action by the Board at its meeting of April 28, 2023 – Resolution**

**AYES (11):** Directors Dorsey, Garbarino, Giudice, Grosboll, Hernández, Rabbitt, Safaí and Thier; Second Vice President Hill; First Vice President Cochran; President Thériault.  
**NOES (0):** None.  
**ABSENT (8):** Directors Conroy, Engardio, Mastin, Moulton-Peters, Pahre, Rodoni, Snyder and Stefani.

**(5) Public Comment**

There was no Public Comment.

**(6) Adjournment [29:43 Minutes Mark on the Audio Recording]**

All business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gerald Cochran, Chair

Governmental Affairs and Public Information Committee

GC:AMK:EIE:tnm