



Agenda Item No. (5)

To: Rules, Policy and Industrial Relations Committee/Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 23, 2026

From: Amorette M. Ko-Wong, Secretary of the District
Denis J. Mulligan, General Manager

Subject: **APPROVE ACTIONS RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF SENATE BILL (SB) 707 (DURAZO) OPEN MEETINGS: MEETING AND TELECONFERENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Recommendation

The Rules, Policy and Industrial Relations Committee recommends that the Board of Directors adopt the following policies in accordance with Senate Bill (SB) 707 (Durazo) as follows:

- 1) Approve an amendment to the *Rules of the Board*, **RULE II, THE RULES OF ORDER, A. Meetings**, and adopt the attached Policy on Disruptions to Public Participation During Remote or Hybrid Meetings regarding disruptions to remote public participation during a public meeting. If approved, the Disruption Policy will be included as an appendix to the *Rules of the Board*;
- 2) Approve an amendment to the *Rules of the Board*, **RULE XVII, PUBLIC INFORMATION GUIDELINES**, regarding expanding outreach to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend Board meetings; and
- 3) Approve remote meetings for the District's citizen advisory committees to enhance public access and to improve attraction, retention, diversity of advisory committee membership with the understanding that the Board will need to make such findings every six months after this initial approval.

This matter will be presented to the Board of Directors at its April 24, 2026 meeting for appropriate action.

Summary

The Ralph M. Brown Act ("the Brown Act"; California Government Code section 54950 et seq.) requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body, as defined, of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate.

The Brown Act has been modified via a string of executive orders and legislation (including but not limited to Assembly Bill (AB) 361 and AB 2449) over the past six years, initially to address pandemic-related needs for remote meetings. On October 3, 2025, Governor Newsom signed SB 707 into law, which among other changes, amended the Brown Act to require certain public agencies, including the District, to adopt disruption and outreach policies and to allow certain advisory committees defined as “eligible subsidiary bodies” to participate fully remotely, if specified requirements are satisfied.

Policy on Disruptions to Public Participation During Remote or Hybrid Meetings

SB 707 requires the District to adopt a formal policy, before July 1, 2026, that outlines how to restore any telephonic or internet services disruptions that prevent the public from virtually attending and participating in a meeting. SB 707 requires that the policy specify the following:

- (i) If remote participation is interrupted, the Board must recess; and,
- (ii) If remote participation cannot be restored and the disruption remains unresolved after one hour, the meeting may be resumed only if the Board adopts a finding by roll call vote that good faith efforts to restore remote access were made in accordance with the Board's disruption policy, and that the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access.

To comply with this SB 707 requirement, staff has drafted the Policy on Disruptions to Public Participation During Remote or Hybrid Meetings (attached) for Board adoption detailing the good faith efforts the District will take. Staff recommends amending Rule II, THE RULES OF ORDER, A. Meetings in the *Rules of the Board* to add language referencing the District’s new appendix. The proposed language to be added to Rule II, A. Meetings is:

“The District has adopted a Policy on Disruptions to Public Participation During Remote or Hybrid Meetings attached to the *Rules of the Board* as Appendix E.”

If adopted, this Policy will be included as a new appendix in the District’s *Rules of the Board*.

Amendment to Rule XVII, PUBLIC INFORMATION GUIDELINES

SB 707 also requires the District to make reasonable efforts, as determined by the Board, to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend Board meetings. SB 707 provides examples of these groups, but delegates to the Board broad discretion to choose the types of reasonable efforts that will be made and which groups to target. Examples of such groups include media organizations that cover news in the District's jurisdiction (including media organizations that serve non-English-speaking communities), good government, civil rights, civic engagement, neighborhood, and community groups, or similar organizations that are active in the District's jurisdiction (including organizations active in non-English-speaking communities the District serves).

Staff has determined that the most effective way to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend Board meetings is to post information on how to attend the District’s meetings on the District’s social media accounts. Other methods of public outreach, such as sending email notifications to specific groups, may also be useful tools. To comply with this SB 707 requirement, staff recommends amending Rule XVII, PUBLIC INFORMATION

GUIDELINES in the *Rules of the Board* to add language delegating compliance with these outreach requirements to the District Secretary or designee. The proposed language to be added to Rule XVII is:

“The District Secretary or designee shall make reasonable efforts to publicize and invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings to attend the District's Board meetings. Such efforts may include posts on the District's social media accounts and other appropriate outreach methods, as determined by the District Secretary or designee.”

If adopted, this language will be added to the end of Rule XVII in the District's *Rules of the Board*.

Alternative Teleconferencing Rules for Passenger Advisory Committees

SB 707 also created a new category of legislative bodies called “eligible subsidiary bodies,” defined as legislative bodies that (a) serve exclusively in an advisory role; (b) do not have authority to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements, grants, or allocations of funds; and (c) do not have primary subject matter jurisdiction on elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, removing from/restricting access to materials available in public libraries, or taxes or related spending proposals. The District's four passenger advisory committees (Bus Passengers Advisory Committee, Ferry Passengers Advisory Committee, Advisory Committee on Accessibility, and Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committee) are considered eligible subsidiary bodies.

Non-elected members of eligible subsidiary bodies may participate in public meetings remotely under alternative teleconferencing rules, if the Board makes specified findings initially and every six months thereafter, and the eligible subsidiary body itself votes to use the alternative teleconferencing rules. The alternative teleconferencing rules would allow passenger advisory committee members to participate from remote locations for any or no stated reason, and without posting their addresses or opening their locations to the public. Members participating remotely would, however, need to appear on camera at all times during the meeting, unless they are having connectivity problems or for reasonable accommodation for a disability. The District must provide a staffed, publicly accessible physical location for each passenger advisory committee meeting.

To authorize a passenger advisory committee to vote to approve these alternative teleconferencing rules, the Board must first adopt the following specified findings: (1) the Board has considered the circumstances of the eligible subsidiary body; (2) teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body would enhance public access to meetings of the eligible subsidiary body; (3) the public has been made aware of the type of remote participation being contemplated and has been provided with an opportunity to comment at an in-person meeting of the Board; and (4) teleconference meetings of the eligible subsidiary body will improve the attraction, retention, and diversity of the eligible subsidiary body members.

Staff reviewed the operational needs of the passenger advisory committees and found:

1. The passenger advisory committee memberships consist of volunteers who represent a broad geographic area.
2. It has been difficult to recruit or reach quorum for some of the committees due to the requirement to attend meetings in person.

3. Requiring in-person attendance is likely to continue to hinder the passenger advisory committees' ability to recruit members and reach a quorum.
4. In terms of the types of remote participation that may be provided to passenger advisory committees, the District can offer two-way audio-video Zoom teleconferencing.
5. Allowing remote participation at passenger advisory committee meetings will directly enhance the District's ability to recruit and retain a diverse membership, and to reach a quorum at meetings. Use of remote meetings would also remove barriers related to in-person meetings for members of the public to attend passenger advisory committee meetings.

If the Board adopts a resolution with the specified findings, the passenger advisory committees may then vote to authorize the alternative teleconferencing rules permitted for eligible subsidiary bodies under the Brown Act, so long as the Board continues to adopt the findings every six months. To facilitate the continual Board approval process, an item recommending readoption of these findings will be included on the consent calendar of the applicable Board meeting agendas.

If the Board adopts the resolution, staff will draft alternative teleconferencing rules that comply with the Brown Act, as amended by SB 707, for the passenger advisory committees to consider adopting.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the approval of these actions.

Attachment: APPENDIX E - Disruptions Policy on Public Participation During Open Meetings

APPENDIX E

GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT

Policy on Disruptions to Public Participation During Remote or Hybrid Meetings

This policy outlines the procedure for managing disruptions to two-way remote participation tools during meetings of the Board of Directors (“Board”) subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act, as may be amended (“the Brown Act”). This policy complies with legislative amendments to the Brown Act under Senate Bill 707. Effective July 1, 2026, the following procedure shall apply:

- 1) ***Recess Upon Disruption:*** If a disruption prevents public participation through two-way telephonic or audiovisual platforms, the Board shall recess the open session and make good faith efforts to restore the disrupted means of public access.
- 2) ***Closed Session During Recess:*** During the recess, the Board may meet in closed session to address matters lawfully permitted under the Brown Act.
- 3) ***Reconvening Open Session:*** The Board may not reconvene open session until at least one hour has elapsed or the disrupted means of public access has been restored, whichever occurs first.
- 4) ***Continuing Without Restored Access:*** If the disrupted means of public access cannot be restored after one hour of good faith efforts, the Board may reconvene in open session only after adopting, by roll call vote, the following findings: (i) good faith efforts were made to restore access in accordance with this policy; and (ii) the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote access.

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