



**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 6:00 pm**  
**138 S. Brandon Rd., Fallbrook, CA 92028**  
**Administrative Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Community Room**  
*\*All meetings are hybrid unless otherwise noted.*

\*Please contact the Board clerk for language translation services 48 hours in advance of the meeting  
In accordance with California Government Code Section 54956 teleconferencing was used for this meeting. Members of the public were able to participate by webinar.

**BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Board Chair Jennifer Jeffries, Vice-Chair Sally DeVito, Treasurer Howard Salmon, Secretary Anabel Canseco, Member Cindy Acosta**

**A CALL MEETING TO ORDER | ESTABLISH A QUORUM | PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE -**  
Chair Jennifer Jeffries called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.  
In attendance: Directors Jennifer Jeffries, Sally DeVito, Howard Salmon, Anabel Canseco, Cindy Acosta, General Counsel Aleks Giragosian. Staff members: Chief Executive Officer Rachel Mason, Chief Administrative Officer Judith Oswald, Chief Programs Officer Theresa Geracitano, CPA Susan Woodward, Executive Assistant/Board Clerk Raquel Williams.  
Members of the public: Tom Frew, Roy Moosa, Jessica Munoz

**B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA -**  
**Action:** It was moved by Director Howard Salmon, seconded by Director Sally DeVito to approve the agenda as presented.  
**Motion carried (5-0) - unanimous vote**

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA | ANNOUNCEMENTS - None**

**D. PRESENTATIONS-**  
Jackie Arditti Advancement Manager from Children’s Museum of Discovery – Grantee Children’s Museum of Discovery asked to give an update on the grant funds that have brought the Children’s Museum of Discovery Mobile Museum to all Fallbrook Transitional Kindergarten (TK) and Kindergarten students. Thanks to the Boards generosity 819 Students and 80 adults were served. TK students were able to enjoy the Mobile Museum and Kindergarten students got to see the Creature Feature program in action, and they loved all the different creatures. The program has been well received by the Fallbrook School District Educators and staff.

General Counsel Aleks Giragosian- Updates to the Brown Act under SB 707- Presentation included in the minutes.

**E. CONSENT ITEMS -**

- E1. **Minutes of December 10, 2025, Facilities Committee Meeting**  
(Staff Recommendation: Approve minutes of December 10, 2025, Facilities Committee meeting)
- E2. **Minutes of December 10, 2025, Board of Directors Meeting**  
(Staff Recommendation: Approve Minutes of December 10, Board of Directors Meeting)
- E3. **Chief Programs Officer Report – Theresa Geracitano** – CEO Rachel Mason shared about a new partnership with the American Heart Association an onsite blood pressure monitoring station at the CH&WC and a home monitoring option allowing participants to check out a blood pressure cuff for two weeks.  
(Staff Recommendation: Receive and file report)
- E4. **Chief Administrative Officer Report – Judith Oswald** – CAO Judith Oswald is working tirelessly on streamlining the payroll and HR components.  
(Staff Recommendation: Receive and file report)
- E5. **Chief Executive Officer Report – Rachel Mason**  
(Staff Recommendation: Receive and file report)

**Action:** It was moved by Director DeVito, seconded by Director Acosta to approve the consent items as presented.

**Motion carried (5-0) – unanimous vote**

**F. DISCUSSION ITEMS-**

- F1. **January 7, 2026, Finance Committee Meeting Packet & Minutes**  
(Staff Recommendation: Approve Minutes of the January 7, 2026, Finance Committee Meeting)

**Action:** It was moved by Director Acosta, seconded by Director Salmon to approve minutes of January 7, 2026, Finance Committee Meeting.

**Motion carried (5-0) – unanimous vote**

**G. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS & ITEMS FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS -**

**Announcements for upcoming events:**

See the District website event calendar at <https://www.fallbrookhealth.org/community-health-wellness-center>

**Mental Health First Aid for Adults | Saturday, January 17, 2026, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm**  
**District Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19, 2026, in observance of Martin Luther King Day**



H. ADJOURNMENT-

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:07 pm

*Raquel A Williams*  
Executive Assistant/Board Clerk

# **Expanding Public Access: SB 707's Updates to the Brown Act**

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## **Fallbrook Regional Health Care District**

Presented by:

**Aleks R. Giragosian, General Counsel**

Colantuono, Highsmith and Whatley, PC

**COLANTUONO  
HIGHSMITH  
WHATLEY, PC**

# Three Elements of SB 707

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- Purpose: “This act is necessary to modernize the Ralph M. Brown Act to reflect recent technological changes that can promote greater public access to local officials.”
- The Primary Changes:
  - Clarification and Expansion of Teleconferencing Rules;
  - Miscellaneous Changes; and
  - Public Access Updates for Eligible Legislative Bodies.

# Existing Teleconferencing Exceptions

- Traditional  
(added in 1988)
- State of Emergency  
(added in 2021)
- Just Cause  
(added in 2023)
- Emergency Circumstance  
(added in 2023)
- Neighborhood Council  
(added in 2023)
- Student Body Association or  
Student-run Community College Org.  
(added in 2024)

# Traditional Teleconferencing\*

- Requirement:
  - Identify each teleconference location
  - Post agenda at teleconference location
- Limit: No limit
- Quorum: Remote participant does not count toward quorum
- Means: Call-in or internet-based service
- Public: Each location accessible to public
- Disclosure: No disclosure required
- Vote: Roll Call

# Reasonable Accommodation Teleconferencing\*

- Requirement: Traditional teleconferencing rules do not apply
- Limit: No limit
- Quorum: Remote participant does count toward quorum
- Means: Two-way audio-visual platform\*\*
- Public: Not afforded to public\*\*\*
- Disclosure: 18+ present and relationship
- Vote: Roll Call

# Exceptions to Traditional Teleconferencing\*

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- Health Authority (GC 54953.8.1)
- State of Emergency (GC 54953.8.2)
- Just Cause (GC 54953.8.3)
- Neighborhood Council (GC 54953.8.4)
- Community College Student Organization (GC 54953.8.5)
- Eligible Subsidiary Body (GC 54953.8.6)
- Multi-jurisdictional body (GC 54953.8.7)

# Requirements to Use Exceptions to Traditional Teleconferencing

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- Public Access
  - Two-way audiovisual platform; or
  - Two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting
- Pausing meeting until disruption to teleconferencing for public resolved
- Remote participation of members of legislative body noted in minutes
- Member's disclosure of 18+ participants and relationship

# State of Emergency or Local Emergency Teleconferencing

	Existing Rule	New Rule
Requirement	Determine by majority vote that meeting in person presents risks to health or safety due to state of emergency & renew vote every 45 days	Finding now includes state of emergency or local emergency*
Limit	No Limit	No Change
Quorum	Remote participant does count toward quorum	Remote participant does count toward quorum
Vote	Roll Call	Roll Call
Method	Call-in or internet-based service	Two-way telephonic or two-way audio-visual platform

# Just Cause Teleconferencing

Former Definition of Emergency Circumstances	Former Definition of Just Cause	New Definition of Just Cause
Physical or family medical emergency		Physical or family medical emergency
	Childcare or caregiving need	Childcare or caregiving need
	Contagious illness	Contagious illness
	Travel while on official business of legislative body	Travel while on official business of legislative body
		Immunocompromised family member
		Military service obligations that requires the member to be at least 50 miles outside the boundaries of agency
		Physical or mental condition that is not subject to accommodation

# Just Cause Teleconferencing

- Requirement:
  - Disclose reason to legislative body at earliest opportunity
- Limit:\*
  - 2 meetings/year (body meets 1- per month)
  - 5 meetings/year (body meets 2 per month)
  - 7 meetings/year (body meets 3+ per month)
- Quorum: Remote participant does not count toward quorum
- Means: two-way audio-visual platform

# Subsidiary Body Teleconferencing

## “Eligible Subsidiary Body”

- “A commission, committee, board, or other body of a local agency, whether permanent or temporary, ... created by charter, ordinance, resolution, or formal action of a legislative body”;
- Exclusively advisory;
- Not authorized to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements, grants, or allocations of funds;
- Does not have primary subject matter jurisdiction regarding elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, public library materials, or taxes

# Subsidiary Body Teleconferencing

- Requirement:
  - Legislative body must authorize the use of teleconferencing and renew the vote every 6 months; may withdraw authorization at will
  - At least one staff member shall be present at the physical location designated in the meeting
  - Elected official serving as a member of the subsidiary body cannot take advantage of this provision
  - Procedure for acting on recommendation of legislative body
- Means: two-way audio-visual platform
- Quorum: Remote participant does count toward quorum
- Limit: No limit

# Multijurisdictional Body Teleconferencing

- “Eligible Multijurisdictional Body”
  - A multijurisdictional board, commission, or advisory body of a multijurisdictional, **cross-county agency**,\* the membership of which board, commission, or advisory body is appointed
- “Multijurisdictional”
  - Legislative body that includes representatives from more than one county, city, or special district;
  - Legislative body of a joint powers entity

# Multijurisdictional Body Teleconferencing

- Requirement:
  - Legislative body must authorize itself to use teleconferencing via resolution
  - If member receives compensation, then must remotely attend from location open to the public
  - Agenda and minutes reflect which members participate remotely
  - Remote location must be at least 20 miles away from the physical meeting location
- Means: two-way audio-visual platform
- Quorum: Remote participant does not count toward quorum
- Limit:\*
  - 2 meetings/year (body meets 1- per month)
  - 5 meetings/year (body meets 2 per month)
  - 7 meetings/year (body meets 3+ per month)

# Side-by-Side Comparison of Teleconferencing Exceptions

Teleconferencing Exceptions	Existing	SB 707
Traditional	GC 54953(b)	GC 54953(b)
ADA	N/A	GC 54953(c)
Health Authority	N/A	GC 54953.8.1
State of Emergency	GC 54953(e)	GC 54953.8.2
Just Cause	GC 54953(f)	GC 54953.8.3
Emergency Circumstance	GC 54953(f)	N/A
Neighborhood Council	GC 54953.8	GC 54953.8.4
Community College Student Organization	GC 54953.9	GC 54953.8.5
Eligible Subsidiary Body	N/A	GC 54953.8.6
Multi-jurisdictional body	N/A	GC 54953.8.7

# Miscellaneous Changes

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# Compensation of Executives

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- Must orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits for either:
  - A “local agency executive”;
  - A department head or other similar administrative officer of the local agency

# Public Comment

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- Rule: The agenda need not provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body on any item that has already been considered by a committee composed exclusively of members of the legislative body at a public meeting
- Former Exception: unless the item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item
- New Exception:
  - The item has been substantially changed since the committee heard the item;  
OR
  - When considering the item, a quorum of the committee members did not participate from a singular physical location, identified on agenda, open to public, and within jurisdiction;  
OR
  - The committee has primary subject matter jurisdiction over elections, budgets, police oversight, privacy, removing from, or restricting access to, materials available in public libraries, or taxes or related spending proposals.\*

# Mandating Copies of Brown Act

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## Existing Law

- A legislative body of a local agency **may** require that a copy of this chapter be given to each member of the legislative body and any person elected to serve as a member of the legislative body who has not assumed the duties of office.

## New Requirement

- A local agency **shall** provide a copy of this chapter to any person elected or appointed to serve as a member of a legislative body of the local agency.

# Social Media Exception Extended Indefinitely

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- AB 992 (2021) added the social media exception to the Brown Act, allowing members of a legislative body to engage in communications outside of a meeting using an internet-based social media platform to answer questions, provide information to the public, or to solicit information from the public regarding a matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body, provided that a majority of the members do not use the internet-based social media platform to discuss among themselves or respond directly to any a matter that is made, posted, or shared by any other member of the legislative body.
- Was set to expire on January 1, 2026
- SB 707 repeals expiration date

# Special Meetings

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- Notification requirements for special meetings: have to provide written notice all the members of the legislative body and newspaper/radio/TV station requesting notice, unless waived.
  - Member may waive notice by ~~telegram~~ telephone or email or in person
- Removes the limitation that only special meeting notices for the **governing body** must be posted on the agency's website
- Cannot call a special meeting to discuss local agency executive salaries/benefits and to discuss salaries/benefits of the legislative body

# Removal of Disruptive Members

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- Authority to remove a disruptive member of the public from a meeting includes from a teleconferenced meeting
- Must still provide warning before removal
- “Disrupting” means engaging in behavior during a meeting of a legislative body that actually disrupts, disturbs, impedes, or renders infeasible the orderly conduct of the meeting and includes:
  - A failure to comply with reasonable and lawful regulations adopted by a legislative body or any other law.
  - Engaging in behavior that constitutes use of force or a true threat of force.

# State Mandates for “Eligible Legislative Bodies”

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**54953.4**

# “Eligible legislative body” Defined

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- A city council\* of a city with a population of 30,000 or more.
- A city council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more.
- The board of directors of a special district that has an internet website and meets **any** of the following conditions:
  - Includes all of County with 600,000+ population and 200+ FTE employees;
  - 1,000+ FTE employees; or
  - Annual revenues of \$400,000,000+ and 200+ FTE employees.

# Three Separate Mandates Effective July 1, 2026

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1. Remote public access
2. Translation
3. Web Access

# **Mandate #1: Remote Public Access**

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**54953.4(b)(1)**

# What: Remote Public Access

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- Members of the public must be able to attend and participate in meetings via:
  - Two-way telephonic service: a dial-in service that does not require internet
  - Two-way audiovisual platform: an online platform allowing both video conference and telephonic service; must activate automatic captioning function
- Exception:
  - If adequate telephonic or internet service is not operational at the meeting location;
  - If meeting is taking place outside the usual meeting location under specified circumstances;\*
  - If the meeting is pursuant to an “emergency situation”

# Next Step

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- Determine whether agency is an “eligible legislative body”
- Install infrastructure needed to facilitate remote public access
- Approve a policy regarding disruption of telephonic or internet service occurring during the meeting
  - Policy cannot be approved on consent;
  - Disruption triggers a recess for at least one hour;
  - If disruption not resolved within an hour, legislative body may approve to proceed by roll call vote upon making certain findings;
  - Policy must address procedures for recessing and reconvening a meeting in the event of a disruption and the efforts the eligible legislative body shall make to attempt to restore the service\*

# **Mandate #2: Translation**

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**54953.4(b)(2) & (c)(1)**

# Existing Translation Requirement

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- The Brown Act currently requires a legislative body to provide at least twice the allotted time to a member of the public who utilizes a translator to ensure that non-English speakers receive the same opportunity to directly address the legislative body of a local agency.
- Unless the legislative body utilizes a simultaneous translation equipment in a manner that allows the legislative body of a local agency to hear the translated public testimony simultaneously.

# New Translation Requirement

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- Legislative body “shall reasonably assist” members of the public who wish to translate a public meeting into any language or wish to receive interpretation provided by another member of the public, so long as the interpretation is not disrupting to the meeting.\*
- Must publicize translation request instructions.
- Translation assistance may include:
  - Arranging space for one or more interpreters at the meeting location.
  - Allowing extra time during the meeting for interpretation to occur.
  - Ensuring participants may utilize their personal equipment or reasonably access to commercially available interpretation services.

# New Agenda Translation Requirement

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- The agenda for each meeting shall be translated into all “applicable languages”\*
- The meeting webpage shall be translated into all applicable languages, and each translation shall be accessible through a prominent direct link posted on the home page
- Translation can be made using a digital translation service
- Agency shall allow members of the public to post additional translations of the agenda in a physical location
- For the purposes of this section, the agenda does not include the entire agenda packet.

# New Agenda Translation Requirement

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- “Applicable languages” means languages, according to data from the most recent American Community Survey, spoken jointly by 20 percent or more of the applicable population, if that population speaks English less than “very well.”
- If more than three languages meet the criteria of “applicable languages,” then “applicable language shall mean the three languages that are spoken by the largest percentage of the population

## Next Step

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- Determine whether agency is an eligible legislative body
- Determine whether the agency has an applicable language
- Revise procedures to facilitate translation of webpages and agendas

# **Mandate #3: Web Access**

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**54953.4(b)(3)**

# Existing Requirement re Web Access

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- The Brown Act requires that either the agenda or a prominent, direct link to the agenda be posted to the agency's homepage\*
- The agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform shall be posted in an open format\*\*
- “Integrated agenda management platform” means an internet website dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body to the public.

# New Requirement re Web Access

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- Establish a system for electronically accepting and fulfilling requests for meeting agendas and agenda documents through:
  - Email; or
  - an integrated agenda management platformaccessible through a prominent direct link posted on the primary internet website home page
- Appears repetitive of existing law

# New Requirement re Web Access

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- Establish an accessible webpage dedicated to public meetings that includes, or provides a link to, all of the following information:
  - A general explanation of the public meeting process;
  - An explanation of the procedures for a member of the public to provide in-person or remote oral public comment during a public meeting or to submit written public comment;
  - A calendar of all public meeting dates with calendar listings that include the date, time, and location of each public meeting; and
  - The agenda posted online
- Appears to clarify the best practice

# New Requirement re Web Access

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- Make reasonable efforts\* to invite groups that do not traditionally participate in public meetings by inviting:
  - media organizations, including media organizations that serve non-English-speaking communities;
  - Good government organizations;
  - civil rights or civic engagement organizations;
  - Neighborhood or community groups, including organizations active in non-English-speaking communities.



# QUESTIONS?

# THANK YOU

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Aleks R. Giragosian  
agiragosian@chwlaw.us  
[www.chwlaw.us](http://www.chwlaw.us)

COLANTUONO  

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HIGHSMITH  

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WHATLEY, PC

# COLANTUONO, HIGHSMITH & WHATLEY, PC

## Northern California

420 Sierra College Dr., Suite 140  
Grass Valley, CA 95945-5091  
(530) 432-7357

670 West Napa Street  
Sonoma, CA 95476  
(707) 986-8091

555 University Ave., Suite 275  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
(916) 400-0370

## Southern California

790 E. Colorado Blvd., Suite 850  
Pasadena, CA 91101  
(213) 542-5700

7545 Irvine Center Dr., Suite 200  
Irvine, CA 92618  
(949) 545-9051

888 Prospect St., Suite 200  
La Jolla, CA 92037  
(619) 272-6200

701 Palomar Airport Rd., Suite 300  
Carlsbad, CA 92011  
(619) 272-6200

[www.chwlaw.us](http://www.chwlaw.us)