

STAFF REPORT

To: Coastside County Water District Board of Directors

From: Mary Rogren, General Manager

Agenda: November 12, 2025

Report Date: November 7, 2025

Agenda Title: SB 707 - Brown Act Amendments and Other Legislative Updates - Discussion

Recommendation/Motion:
Information Only

Background:

On October 3, 2025, Senate Bill 707 (SB 707) was signed by Governor Newsom and will bring changes to many public agencies' meetings starting in 2026.

The District's Legal Counsel, Patrick Miyaki, will provide an overview of SB 707 and the amendments to the Brown Act as they impact the District, as well as some other legislative updates, at the November 12, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting.

Fiscal Impact:

None.



SENATE BILL 707 BROWN ACT AMENDMENTS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**COASTSIDE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
NOVEMBER 12, 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

AGENDA

- Traditional Teleconferencing Requirements
- Alternative Teleconferencing Requirements
- Eligible Legislative Bodies
- Additional Brown Act Updates
- SB 827 – Fiscal and Financial Training
- SB 852 – Filing Form 700 with FPPC

Traditional Teleconferencing Rules (Pre-Covid Requirements) **[Gov't Code § 54953(b)]**

The traditional Brown Act teleconferencing requirements remain largely unchanged by SB 707. Under this approach:

- Each teleconference location must be identified on the notice and agenda for the meeting.
- The agenda must be posted at each teleconference location.
- Each teleconference location must be open and accessible to the public.
- Members of the public must be allowed to participate in the meeting from each noticed teleconference location.
- A quorum of the Board must participate in the meeting from locations within the District's boundaries.
- All votes must be by roll call vote.

Alternative Teleconferencing Rules (former AB 2449 Requirements) **[Gov't Code §§ 54953.8–54953.8.7]**

SB 707 clarifies and expands the former AB 2449 requirements, which allow Board members to participate remotely without opening their physical location to the public or posting an agenda at the location, for either: (1) just cause basis; or (2) state or local emergency basis.

When alternative teleconferencing is used, regardless of the basis, the following requirements apply:

- The public must be able to participate in the meeting by a two-way audiovisual platform or two-way telephonic service supplemented by live webcasting of the meeting.

- The District must give notice of the means by which the public may access the meeting remotely and offer public comment.
- In the event of a disruption in remote participation, the Board shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting is restored.
- The District cannot require public comments to be submitted in advance of a meeting, and must provide opportunities for the public to address the Board in real time.
- Minutes must list each remotely-participating Board member and the statutory basis for remote participation.
- Board members participating remotely must publicly disclose whether any individuals over 18 years of age are present in the room at their remote location and their relationship to the Board member.
- All votes must be by roll call vote.

1. Just Cause **[Gov't Code § 54953.8.3]**

These additional procedural requirements for participating remotely for "just cause" remain the same (as under AB 2449):

- The Board member must notify the Board ASAP, which can include at the start of a meeting, of their need to participate remotely.
- A quorum of other Board members must meet in person at a single, noticed location in the District's boundaries.
- The Board member must participate through both audio and visual technology.
- Board members are limited to participating remotely under the just cause basis two times per calendar year because the Board regularly meets once per month.

- The substantive reasons for just cause remote participation include:
 - The member needs to care for their child, parent, grandparent, sibling, spouse or domestic partner.
 - The member has a contagious illness.
 - A need related to physical or mental condition that does not qualify as a reasonable accommodation for a disability.
 - The member is traveling on official business of the agency or another state or local agency.
 - The member needs to participate remotely to protect an immunocompromised close relative from exposure to illness (new).
 - A physical or family medical emergency prevents a member from attending in person. (this was treated as an “emergency circumstance” under AB 2449).
 - Military service obligations (new).

2. State or Local Emergency **[Gov't Code § 54953.8.2]**

The Board may hold Board meetings remotely under the state or local emergency basis:

- If there is a proclaimed state of emergency (proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act) or local emergency (proclaimed by the governing body of the local agency affected in accordance with Section 8630 of the California Emergency Services Act or a local health emergency declared pursuant to Section 101080 of the Health and Safety Code), the Board may vote to meet remotely under this section.
- If meeting under this section, there does not need to be a physical location for public attendance or comment, and the meeting may be conducted utilizing a two-way telephonic service without a webcast.
- If the state of emergency or local emergency remains active, the Board must vote to reauthorize remote meetings every 45 days.

Eligible Subsidiary Bodies **[Gov't Code § 54953.8.6]**

Elected officials serving on an eligible subsidiary body in their official capacity may not use this alternative path to teleconference. The District's standing and advisory committees are Brown Act committees made up of elected District Board members who are on these Board committees in their official capacity.

Multijurisdictional Bodies

[Gov't Code § 54953.8.7]

Multijurisdictional entities are defined as legislative bodies that (a) include representatives from more than one county, city, city and county, or special district, or (b) are joint powers authorities. Multijurisdictional bodies may use an alternative teleconferencing framework.

The District does not fall within the definition of multijurisdictional body and therefore this does not apply to the District.

Disability Accommodation Carve-Out

[Gov't Code § 54953(c)]

SB 707 exempts Board members who participate remotely as a reasonable accommodation for a disability (as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102) from the traditional and alternative teleconferencing requirements. Instead, the following requirements apply:

- Remote participation as a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act is treated as in-person for quorum and location requirements.
- The Board member must participate through both audio and visual technology, except if their disability requires off-camera participation.
- The Board member must disclose if any other individuals aged 18 years or older are present in the room at the remote location and their relationship to the Board member.

Eligible Legislative Bodies (Effective July 1, 2026) **[Gov't Code § 54953.4]**

Beginning July 1, 2026, certain very large local agencies are designated as “eligible legislative bodies” and must follow enhanced teleconferencing and transparency requirements, such as translation of agendas, closed captioning for remote platforms, and outreach to certain groups.

The District does not fall within the definition of eligible legislative body and therefore these new requirements do not apply to the District.

Additional Brown Act Updates

SB 707 makes a few additional updates to the Brown Act:

- Clarifies authority to warn and remove disrupters; applies equally to two-way telephone and audiovisual participation. (Gov't Code §§ 54957.95, 54957.96)
- Agencies must provide the text of the Brown Act to every person elected or appointed to a legislative body. (Gov't Code § 54952.7)
- Agencies must, before final action, verbally report out the compensation for department heads and similar administrative officers. (Gov't Code § 54953(d)(3))

SENATE BILL 827

[Gov't Code § 53283-53238.4]

In general, local agency officials who must complete AB 1234 training now also must complete 2 hours of fiscal and financial training.

Board Members are local agency officials who must complete this new fiscal and financial training requirement.

Currently seated Board members must complete the fiscal and financial training by January 1, 2028.

SENATE BILL 852

[Gov't Code § 87500 and 87200]

Public officials who manage public investments must file a statement of economic interests (Form 700) electronically with the Fair Political Practices Commission.

Board members are public officials who are deemed to manage public investments and therefore must electronically file their Form 700s with the FPPC.

QUESTIONS?