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ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
ORANGE COUNTY'S GROUNDWATER AUTHORITY

March 26, 2021

The Honorable Robert Rivas
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 5158
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 361 (R. Rivas) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences - Support

Dear Assemblymember Rivas:

Orange County Water District (OCWD; the District) writes in support of AB 361 (R. Rivas), which is sponsored by the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) and would provide flexibility to local city councils, boards, commissions, and other agencies for any future unforeseen state of emergency or local emergency.

AB 361 would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act) in certain circumstances. This bill would require legislative bodies that hold teleconferenced meetings under these conditions to do all of the following:

- Provide notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required;
- Allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body directly;
- Conduct the teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties and the public appearing before the legislative body.

Thank you, again, for your leadership on this issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me or OCWD Legislative Liaison Alicia Dunkin at adunkin@ocwd.com or (714) 378-8232 if you have any questions and/or if we may be of any assistance on water policy issues in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Markus, P.E., D.WRE
General Manager

The Honorable Robert Rivas
March 26, 2021
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cc:

Senator Dave Min, 37th District
Senator Patricia Bates, 36th District
Senator Tom Umberg, 34th District
Senator Bob Archuleta, 32nd District
Senator Josh Newman, 29th District
Assemblymember Cottie Petrie-Norris, 74th District
Assemblymember Laurie Davies, 73rd District
Assemblymember Janet Nguyen, 72nd District
Assemblymember Tom Daly, 69th District
Assemblymember Steven S. Choi, Ph.D, 68th District
Assemblymember Sharon Quirk- Silva, 65th District
Assemblymember Phillip Chen, 55th District