



# Understanding SB 707 - The Brown Act Modernization Act

**City Council Special Meeting**

**June 15, 2026**



# SB 707 – The Brown Act Modernization Act

## What is the Ralph M. Brown Act?

- California's open-meetings law (enacted 1953)
- SB 707 provides changes to the Ralph M. Brown Act to fold in modernization and technology



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## Applicability

- SB 707 applies to “eligible legislative bodies” defined as:
  - City Council of a city with a population of 30,000 or more
  - City Council of a city located in a county with a population of 600,000 or more



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## Modernized Changes

- SB 707 is intended to modernize public meeting requirements to improve public engagement and accessibility
  - Remote access used by more community members
  - Need for reliable, equitable participation
  - Statewide push for accessibility
  - Translated agendas, translation services, public bulletin board
  - Procedures for technology interruption and broadcast restoration
  - Two-way, real-time captioning and call-in options



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## Modernized Changes

- SB 707 revises and extends the Brown Act's alternative teleconferencing provisions through January 1, 2030
  - Establishes a framework for just cause and emergency circumstances
  - Codifies updated accessibility and procedural safeguards for hybrid meetings
  - Statewide push for accessibility under ADA



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## **Technology Interruption Procedure: Required Recess**

- No further City Council action during recess
- Attempt in good faith to resume service for a minimum of 1 hour
- Reconvene and make findings by roll call vote to adopt a finding on the record that verifies good faith effort and proceed with the meeting to serve the public interest rather than further delay
- Alternative continuance – if technology cannot be restored the body must continue the affected items to a future, specified time and date or adjourn and re-notice the remaining agenda items



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## Improvements to Public Interface

- Clear online instructions to access City Council Meeting by Zoom, make language selection.
- Increased outreach announcing upcoming meetings.
- Wordly implemented to provide translation on site.



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## Technology Upgrades Underway

- Updated screen displays in San Pablo City Council Chambers
- Backup internet
- Zoom and Granicus, Legislative Agenda System, integration to accommodate public, remote, two-way participation, close caption and translation



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## Timeline

- SB 707 is effective July 1, 2026
- Certain provision have already been implemented in preparation for this date
- Additional refinement of technology will continue to reduce virtual participant delay



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## Staff Recommendations:

1. Receive and file information; no action required.
  - City Council may deliberate or ask questions of staff under the Study Session format.
2. Approve Resolution to adopt the Administrative Policy Pertaining to Disruptions of the City's Telephone or Internet Services During a City Council Meetings



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**Questions or Comments**