

September 8, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL / COURIER / U.S. REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Nancy Skinner
California State Senate, District #09
State Capitol, Room 5094
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 361 (Rivas, Robert) Open Meetings. Local Agencies. Teleconferences.
Notice of SUPPORT (As amended on 9/3/2021)**

Dear Senator Skinner:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, the City of San Pablo is pleased to support the current version of the AB 361, which would allow local agencies to meet remotely under modified Brown Act requirements during a state of emergency to continue to provide essential local services. Public access and participation remain a core value of local democracy, and the City of San Pablo has risen to this challenge and are engaging and listening to the public in a new, digital environment.

The City of San Pablo urgently needs AB 361 to pass, so our City's Brown Act bodies can continue to provide essential services while prioritizing health and safety of our residents and ensuring government transparency, access, and public engagement. Currently, according to data managed by the Contra Costa County Health Services, our City has the highest active COVID-19 case count of **14,090 (per 100,000 population)** out of all 19 incorporated cities and unincorporated areas. See attached link: <https://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/overview>

While our community continues to make significant progress on our vaccination rates, AB 361, if adopted, would provide the necessary extended timeframe to ensure public health and safety for our residents and the ability for local government officials to conduct ongoing City business/public meetings in a remote environment until the risks of the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, and its variant, greatly subside.

Due to the increased spread of COVID-19 and the uncertainty that COVID-19 variants present, our San Pablo community desperately needs to retain the ability and flexibility to continue to

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conduct meetings in a safe manner. AB 361 would give our city the much-needed continued and ongoing flexibility.

For these reasons, the City of San Pablo greatly **supports** AB 361.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor

City of San Pablo

cc: The Honorable Robert Rivas, State Assemblymember, District #30
Samantha Caygill, East Bay Division, League of California Cities, scaygill@cacities.org

San Pablo City Council

City Manager

City Attorney