



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

March 17, 2025

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5250
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Assembly Bill 259 (Rubio) – Support [As Introduced]

Dear Assembly Member Rubio:

The Coachella Valley Water District is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259, related to the Ralph M. Brown Act.

Recognizing the evolving landscape of public meetings and the demonstrated value of remote participation options when members of governing bodies are unable to attend a physical gathering, your office introduced, and the Legislature passed, Assembly Bill 2449 in 2022, which amended the Ralph M. Brown Act. Beginning in 2023, special districts and other local agencies began using the procedures established by AB 2449, successfully facilitating remote participation for officials that would otherwise been encumbered by illness, official travel, or medical emergency. The provisions of that bill, having been negotiated by civil society groups and local government stakeholders, contained numerous safeguards and requirements, including the presence of an in-person quorum at the official meeting location.

While the provisions added by AB 2449 were modified slightly by technical amendments made by subsequent legislation, the January 1, 2026 sunset included in the original bill remains. To preserve the flexibility provided by your AB 2449, Assembly Bill 259 would eliminate this sunset date, thereby preserving indefinitely the remote meeting procedures added by the earlier legislation. AB 259 would not otherwise change any other elements of the remote meeting provisions.

For these reasons, Coachella Valley Water District is pleased to support your Assembly Bill 259. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

J.M. Barrett
General Manager
Coachella Valley Water District

CC: Marcus Detwiler, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@cdda.net]