

Updates to the Ralph M. Brown Act and Adoption of a Technology Disruption Policy





Expanded Public Access and Participation Requirements

- SB 707 amends the Ralph M. Brown Act, effective January 1, 2026
- Requires remote public access and comment via telephonic or audiovisual means (e.g., Zoom) beginning July 1, 2026
- Mandates automatic closed captioning (when available) and accessible public meeting webpages
- Encourages broader participation
- Does not require translated agendas based on current demographic thresholds
- Requires space for public interpreters and a physical location for posting alternative agenda translations



Expanded Teleconferencing Options for Public Agencies

- Codifies teleconferencing as a reasonable accommodation for Board Members with disabilities, without public access to their remote location
- Expands “just cause” teleconferencing (e.g., illness, medical needs, official travel), with limits on annual use and requirements for quorum and audiovisual participation
- Creates two new teleconferencing options for “eligible subsidiary bodies” and “eligible multi-jurisdictional bodies”
- Traditional teleconferencing remains unchanged



New Technology Disruption Policy

- Requires adoption of a Technology Disruption Policy by July 1, 2026
- Policy clarifies the measures OCTA will take in the event of a technology disruption that prevents remote public participation through the internet/telephonic means
- Provides that if public access is disrupted during the meeting, the Board will recess the meeting for at least one hour or until service is restored
- If service cannot be restored, the Board can only continue the meeting after adopting a finding, by roll call vote, that good faith efforts were made to restore public access, and the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access
- Staff recommends approval of the OCTA Board of Directors' Ralph M. Brown Act Meeting Technology Disruption Policy

OCTA – Orange County Transportation Authority