



Address

July 21, 2021



**CALIFORNIA CITIZENS
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Commissioners:

Isra Ahmad
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Trena Turner
Angela Vázquez
Russell Yee

Álvaro E. Hernández
Executive Director

To the Honorable Members of the California State Legislature,

We write this letter of support for the draft trailer bill RN 21 13389, dated May 13, 2021. This draft trailer bill would enshrine permanent and necessary changes to the Open Meetings Act (Act), specifically regarding greater access.

This bill, as currently drafted, includes teleconference as a “meeting” under the Act and would not require a physical location for any teleconference address. This important change allows greater public access, as the public could attend such a meeting without leaving their home. Additionally, this change will ease logistical burdens in scheduling physical locations for board/commission members.

This bill also enshrines state bodies’ general past practice over the past year and-a-half during the Covid-19 pandemic, where meetings have occurred virtually with opportunities for the public to observe and participate online. This virtual environment has worked well and contributed to increased public participation during this time.

We are encouraged that these temporary changes that have yielded efficient meetings and robust participation would become permanent if this draft trailer bill is passed. The Commission is highly supportive of this bill as drafted and would encourage its passage.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

California Citizens Redistricting Commission

