



MARK PESTRELLA, PE, CHAIR  
SAM SHAMMAS, VICE - CHAIR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331  
P.O. BOX 1460, ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460  
[www.lacountyiswmtf.org](http://www.lacountyiswmtf.org)

June 26, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg, Chair  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
1021 O Street, Suite 3240  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Umberg:

**SUPPORT – ASSEMBLY BILL 557 (HART) AS AMENDED ON JUNE 19, 2023 – OPEN MEETINGS: LOCAL AGENCIES: TELECONFERENCES**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) is pleased to **support** Assembly Bill 557 (AB 557), as amended on June 19, 2023.

The proposed legislation, if enacted, would modify the authority of a legislative body to hold a teleconference meeting under the Ralph M. Brown Act's (Brown Act), teleconferencing procedures when a declared state of emergency is in effect. AB 557 would also extend indefinitely that authority in the circumstances under which the legislative body either (1) meets for the purpose of determining whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or (2) has previously made that determination. Furthermore, the proposed bill extends the period for a legislative body to make the above-described findings related to a continuing state of emergency to not later than 45 days after the first teleconferenced meeting, and every 45 days thereafter, in order to continue to meet under the abbreviated teleconferencing procedures.

The Task Force agrees with the benefits of revising the provisions of law allowing local agencies to use teleconferencing during a proclaimed state of emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic showed us that it is not always possible to meet in person, and that teleconferencing can be a viable alternative. AB 557 allows local agencies to continue to have the flexibility to meet remotely and be consistent with the trend of increasing the use of technology in government while improving transparency and accountability. Teleconferencing is a convenient and efficient way for members of public to participate in government meetings. AB 557 would simply codify this trend ensuring that local agencies can continue to meet and conduct the people's business even in the event of a future emergency.

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Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force is pleased to **support** AB 557. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@gmail.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@gmail.com) or at (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Sam Shammas, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

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cc: Assembly Member (Hart, Garcia, Pacheco)  
Each Member and staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities – Los Angeles County Division  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Fesia A. Davenport, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Officer  
Gateway Cities Council of Governments  
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments  
South Bay Cities Council of Governments  
Westside Cities Council of Governments  
Each City Mayor and Manager in the County of Los Angeles  
Each City Recycling Coordinator in the County of Los Angeles  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste Management Task Force