

**TA**

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**as of 09-22-2023**

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1250 SAN CARLOS AVE  
SAN CARLOS, CA 94070  
(650) 508-6200

September 21, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 557 (Hart) Brown Act – SIGNATURE REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write today to request that you please **SIGN** AB 557 (Hart), which would continue the Brown Act emergency teleconference procedure established by Executive Order in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and by AB 361 (Rivas).

The AB 361 emergency teleconference procedure allowed for remote participation in meetings of legislative bodies during a declared state of emergency that requires social distancing or otherwise prevents an agency from safely meeting in person.

During the pandemic, local agencies needed flexibility to meet remotely when it was unsafe to meet in person. Like other public agencies, SamTrans and the TA continued to issue public meeting notices and agendas as required by the Brown Act, invite and consider public input, and make meetings accessible to the community and the larger public using various technological means when meeting remotely.

AB 361 is set to expire at the end of 2023, and AB 557 would extend the sunset on the emergency remote meeting procedures to January 1, 2026. The bill also would extend the timeframe from 30 days to 45 days for local legislative bodies to justify holding remote meetings. This extension is particularly helpful for regular meeting schedules tied to calendar months rather than weeks. Enactment of AB 557 would ensure that local agencies, including SamTrans and the TA, retain appropriate tools to address limitations imposed by future emergencies and enable them to react and respond effectively.

For these reasons, we ask that you please SIGN AB 557. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please contact Government and Community Affairs Manager Jessica Epstein at [epsteinj@samtrans.com](mailto:epsteinj@samtrans.com) if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "April Chan", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

April Chan  
General Manager/CEO and Executive Director

Cc: San Mateo County Transit District Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority Board of Directors  
San Mateo County Transit District State Legislative Delegation  
Assembly Member Hart