

YOUNG LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Members

Anissa "Cessa" Heard-Johnson - Advisory Council Chair Gabriela Ballesteros – Los Angeles County Emanuel De Jesús Cruz – Los Angeles County Alexander Goytia Fajardo – Los Angeles County Leslie Helen Garcia – Los Angeles County Mark Jimenez – Los Angeles County Shirley Mariel Rivera – Los Angeles County Jordan Ashley Salcido – Los Angeles County Linh Tran – Los Angeles County Silvestre Lopez – Orange County Tai Nguyen – Orange County Eric Tomas – Orange County Roxana Marina Barrera – San Bernardino County Andres Coronel – Riverside County Jose Marquez Cuevas – Riverside County Heaven Denham – Riverside County Vanessa Melesio – San Bernardino County Jai Lin Alise Salas – Riverside County Jessica Santos – San Bernardino County Joshua Scheel - San Bernardino County Gilbert Sebastian Sanchez – San Bernardino County

February 19, 2025 + 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

A meeting of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Young Leader's Advisory Council will be held at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 through in-person attendance in the Conference Room CC-8 at the South Coast AQMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, and remote attendance via videoconferencing and by telephone. Please follow the instructions below to join the meeting remotely.

Please refer to South Coast AQMD's website for information regarding the format of the meeting, updates if the meeting is changed to a full remote via webcast format, and details on how to participate:

http://www.aqmd.gov/home/news-events/meeting-agendas-minutes

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

(Instructions provided at bottom of the agenda)

Cleaning the air that we breathe...

Join Zoom Meeting - from PC or Laptop, or Phone https://scaqmd.zoom.us/j/93580764939

Meeting ID: 935 8076 4939 (applies to all) Teleconference Dial In: +1 669 900 6833 One tap mobile: +16699006833,94141492308#

Audience will be allowed to provide public comment in person or through Zoom connection or telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT WILL STILL BE TAKEN

AGENDA

Members of the public may address this body concerning any agenda item before or during consideration of that item (Gov't. Code Section 54954.3(a)). If you wish to speak, raise your hand on Zoom or press Star 9 if participating by telephone. All agendas for regular meetings are posted at South Coast AOMD Headquarters, 21865 Copley Drive, Diamond Bar, California, at least 72 hours in advance of the regular meeting. Speakers may be limited to three (3) minutes total for all items on the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

ACTION ITEMS (Items 1-5)

1. Welcome, Staff Introductions, and Agenda Overview (5 min) Dr. Anissa "Cessa" (No Motion Required) Heard- Johnson Welcoming remarks and overview of the February 19, 2025 agenda and Deputy Executive introduction of what our division does. Officer

Overview of Community Engagement and Air Programs (CEAP) (5 min) 2. Dr. Heard-Johnson

(No Motion Required)

An opportunity to introduce what the Community Engagement and Air Programs Division at the South Coast AQMD does.

3. **Introductions (20 min)** (No Motion Required)

Dr. Heard-Johnson

Introduction of new and returning YLAC Members.

4. **Review and Approve Minutes (5 min)** (Motion Required)

> Review and approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes. (Written Material Attached)

Dr. Heard-Johnson

February 19, 2025

5. Annual Report (10 min)

(Motion Required)

An opportunity for YLAC members to approve the annual report on the 2024 YLAC activities. The report will be presented next to the March 2025 Administrative Committee Meeting and the April 2025 Board Meeting. (Written Material Attached)

Dr. Heard-Johnson

DISCUSSION ITEMS (Items 6-10)

6. Brown Act Compliance (20 min)

(No Motion Required)

YLAC Members were provided with a presentation on Brown Act Compliance. This is an opportunity to ask any clarifying questions. (Written Materials Attached)

Sheri Hanizavareh Principal Deputy District Council

7. 2024 Member Recognition (5 min)

(No Motion Required)

A recognition of the contributions and efforts of the 2024 YLAC Council.

Dr. Heard-Johnson

8. Materials and Expense Claims (10 min)

(No Motion required)

An overview of the materials provided for YLAC members including *The Color of Law* by Richard Rothstein, and *From the Inside Out* by Jill Lindsey Harrison. We will also explain expense and mileage claim procedures.

Cassandra Johnson, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Heather Pomeroy, Senior Administrative Assistant Dr. Heard-Johnson

9. Community Spotlight (15 min)

(No Motion Required)

An opportunity for YLAC members to elevate or spotlight issues, concerns, and/or events within their respective communities.

Dr. Heard-Johnson

10. Goals and Requests for 2025 Committee (10 min)

(No Motion Required)

An opportunity to discuss any goals, requests, or charter changes for the 2025 Young Leader's Advisory Committee.

OTHER MATTERS (Items 11-13)

11. Other Business

Any member of the Committee, or its staff, on his or her own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, may ask a question for clarification, may make a brief announcement or report on his or her own activities, provide a reference to staff regarding factual information, request staff to report back at a

- 4 -

subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or may take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda. (Gov't. Code Section 54954.2)

12. Public Comment Period

South Coast AQMD

At the end of the regular meeting agenda, an opportunity is also provided for the public to speak on any subject within the Committee's authority that is not on the agenda. Each speaker may be limited to three (3) minutes.

13. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 12:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Americans with Disabilities Act and Language Accessibility

Disability and language-related accommodations can be requested to allow participation in the Stationary Source Committee meeting. The agenda will be made available, upon request, in appropriate alternative formats to assist persons with a disability (Gov't Code Section 54954.2(a)). In addition, other documents may be requested in alternative formats and languages. Any disability or language related accommodation must be requested as soon as practicable. Requests will be accommodated unless providing the accommodation would result in a fundamental alteration or undue burden to the South Coast AQMD. Please contact Heather Pomeroy at (909) 396-2686 from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, or send the request to hpomerov@agmd.gov.

Document Availability

All documents (i) constituting non-exempt public records, (ii) relating to an item on an agenda for a regular meeting, and (iii) having been distributed to at least a majority of the Committee after the agenda is posted, are available by contacting Catherine Rodriguez at (909) 396-2686, or send the request to hpomerov@aamd.gov.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION

<u>Instructions for Participating in a Virtual Meeting as an Attendee</u>

As an attendee, you will have the opportunity to virtually raise your hand and provide public comment. Before joining the call, please silence your other communication devices such as your cell or desk phone. This will prevent any feedback or interruptions during the meeting.

Please note: During the meeting, all participants will be placed on Mute by the host. You will not be able to mute or unmute your lines manually. After each agenda item, the Chair will announce public comment. A countdown timer will be displayed on the screen for each public comment. If interpretation is needed, more time will be allotted.

Once you raise your hand to provide public comment, your name will be added to the speaker list. Your name will be called when it is your turn to comment. The host will then unmute your line.

Directions for Video ZOOM on a DESKTOP/LAPTOP:

If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the "Raise Hand" button on the bottom of the screen. This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for Video Zoom on a SMARTPHONE:

• If you would like to make a public comment, please click on the "Raise Hand" button on the bottom of your screen. This will signal to the host that you would like to provide a public comment and you will be added to the list.

Directions for TELEPHONE line only:

• If you would like to make public comment, please **dial** *9 on your keypad to signal that you would like to comment.





YOUNG LEADERS ADVISORY COUNCIL WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Members Present:

Gabriela Ballesteros
Emanuel De Jesús Cruz
Mai Nguyen Do
Matthew Patara Hui
Yifan Li
Vanessa Melesio
Linh Tran
Tai Nguyen
Roxana Marina Barrera
Angel Delgado Lira
Joshua Scheel

Members Absent:

Celina Vargas Andres Coronel Ryan Dover Norah Kyassa Ciara Christina Thrower Yolanda Aguilar Candelario Marc Flores

South Coast AQMD Staff:

Walter Shen, Director, Diversity Equity and Inclusion with Community Air Programs Josephine Lee, Senior Deputy Counsel, Legal

Tom Gross, Board Member Consultant to Mayor Lock Dawson

Cassandra Johnson, Senior Public Affairs Specialist, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Carolina Vargas, Staff Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Heather Pomeroy, Senior Administrative Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Paola Servas, Senior Office Assistant, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Community Air Programs

Call To Order

Walter Shen called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Agenda Item #1: Welcome and Agenda Overview

Mr. Shen welcomed the meeting attendees to the meeting. For additional information, please refer to the <u>webcast</u> beginning 4:36.

Agenda Item #2: Review and Approve Minutes

Mr. Shen asked for a motion to approve the August 20, 2024 meeting minutes. Motion passed by all members present. For additional information, please refer to the webcast beginning 11:55.

Motion to approve minutes made by Mr. Shen; seconded by Gabriella Ballesteros; approved.

Ayes: Gabriela Ballesteros

Emanuel De Jesús Cruz

Mai Nguyen Do

Matthew Patara Hui

Yifan Li

Vanessa Melesio

Linh Tran

Tai Nguyen

Roxana Marina Barrera

Angel Delgado Lira

Joshua Scheel

Noes: None

Absent: Celina Vargas

Andres Coronel

Ryan Dover

Norah Kyassa

Ciara Christina Thrower

Yolanda Aguilar Candelario

Marc Flores

Agenda Item #4: Community Spotlight

Mr. Shen asked YLAC members if they had any spotlight issues or events in their communities to share. Tai Nguyen, Vanessa Melesio, and Roxanna Barrera spoke about issues in their communities. For additional information please refer to the <u>webcast</u> beginning at 13:10.

Agenda Item #3: Q & A with Executive Officer, Wayne Nastri

Wayne Nastri spoke on his experience and work on environmental justice issues. He encouraged members to strive for excellence in their lives and communities. Joshua Scheel commented on plans for remote sensing technology. For additional information please refer to the <u>webcast</u> beginning at 17:30.

Agenda Item #5: Annual Report

Mr. Shen went over the first three quarters of the annual report for YLAC members and asked for feedback or comments. Vanessa Melesio commented she would like to see specific example cited, Emanuel De Jesús Cruz commented that he liked work with schools and educational organizations was being supported and viewed as a priority, Gabriela Ballesteros liked seeing the goals for the next year, and Matthew Patara Hui liked seeing the growth of the council and future plans stated. For additional information please refer to the webcast at 44:35.

Agenda Item #6: Community Based Organization Spotlight – Legacy LA

Members from Legacy LA gave a presentation to YLAC Members on their organization. Roxanna Barrera asked if Legacy LA would like to work with the Community Based Organization she supports. Vanessa Melesio asked how big Legacy LA's team was. Joshua Scheel commented on their connections to local organizations of higher education. Legacy LA answered member questions and provided their contact information. For additional information please refer to the webcast at 53:55.

Agenda Item #7: Goals and Requests for 2025 Committee

Mr. Shen asked YLAC members about goals and requests for the 2025 YLAC year. Joshua Scheel, Roxanna Barrera, and Tai Nguyen commented on proposed Goals for the 2025 year. For additional information please refer to the <u>webcast</u> at 01:20:29.

Agenda Item #8: Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

Mr. Shen highlighted an event YLAC members might be interested in. There is a monthly U.S. EPA Region 9 meeting that occurs the first Tuesday of every month from 5:30PM - 7:00 PM. Members could register <u>HERE</u>. For additional information please refer to the <u>webcast</u> at 01:30:17.

Agenda Item #9: Public Comment

Harvey Eder made his public comments. For additional information please refer to the webcast at 01:30:52.

Agenda Item #10: Next Meeting Date

The next regular YLAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.





2024 Annual Report of the Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC)

Executive Summary:

The Young Leaders Advisory Council (YLAC) has had a productive year, advancing our goals of engaging young adults on air quality, environmental justice, and sustainability issues. Throughout four quarterly meetings, YLAC members provided valuable feedback, participated in meaningful discussions, and contributed to South Coast AQMD's community outreach efforts. Our committee members are proud to present this year's accomplishments and outline goals for the coming year.

Background:

As per adherence to the YLAC charter, annual reporting is essential to document the council's activities, accomplishments, and areas for future focus. This report identifies YLAC's progress in fostering youth engagement in air quality and environmental justice. By summarizing the council's efforts and feedback provided over the past year, the annual report provides South Coast AQMD and the public with insights into the perspectives and contributions of younger generations.

In alignment with the YLAC charter, key elements of this report include summaries of quarterly meetings, notable accomplishments, areas of impact, and goals for the upcoming year. This overview ensures YLAC's continued alignment with its charter objectives and facilitates accountability and growth in advancing environmental advocacy among young leaders.

Membership Overview:

YLAC members, representing Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange counties, bring perspectives from various backgrounds, including air quality, environmental justice, education, healthcare, and transportation, through a youth lens (under the age of 35). In 2024, YLAC transitioned under the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with Community Air Programs (DEI with CAP) department. DEI with CAP's recruitment efforts have yielded positive results, ensured a robust membership and contributed to the committee's consistent attendance. In 2024, we had

five members transition out of YLAC; three of those five accepted permanent positions within South Coast AQMD—an encouraging sign of the growth and career advancement YLAC facilitates.

Attendance:

Since the beginning of 2024, YLAC has successfully met quorum at each meeting, reflecting an increased commitment and a renewed sense of purpose within the group.

February: 20 out of 20 members attended

May: 13 out of 18 members attended

August: 12 out of 18 members attended

November: 11 out of 19 members

Goals & Key Accomplishments 2024:

YLAC members identified through a survey administered in February 2024 what they hoped the committee would achieve in 2024. Those agreed upon goals were to: increase YLAC members' awareness and engagement in community; increase youth involvement and insight into air quality issues and concerns; address environmental justice concerns; and increase awareness of AQMD resources.

Increase YLAC Awareness and Engagement in Community:

During each meeting, YLAC members provided updates on community-related resources and activities. Members increased their awareness of air quality and sustainability, particularly for youth within their represented regions during these regular community check-ins.

Increase Youth Involvement and Insight into Air Quality Issues and Concerns:

August 2024- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) presented on the Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRD) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Los Angeles – Long Beach – Anaheim Metropolitan Statistical Areas to YLAC members for the purpose of gaining their perspectives and providing best practices for environmental justice advocacy.

November 2024 - Legacy Los Angeles is a community-based organization that empowers youth by providing youth alternatives to gangs and violence, helping them reach their full potential and transform their lives and communities They were invited to share an overview of their organization, best practices, successes,

and methodologies for engaging and retaining youth involvement in their environmental justice efforts.

Address YLAC Environmental Justice Concerns:

For their onboarding, all members of YLAC received Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Book Club resources as reference materials:

From the Inside Out: The Fight for Environmental Justice within Government Agencies (Urban Industrial Environments) by Jill Lindsey Harrison

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

May 2024 –DEI with CAP staff facilitated a J.E.D.I. training to YLAC members with a video and discussion on the documentary *Segregated by Design*, which explored systemic and historical environmental injustice.

Increase Awareness of AQMD Resources

February 2024 – YLAC Members received a training on the Brown Act from South Coast Legal Division.

May 2024 – During the DEI with CAP presentation on AB 617, YLAC members provided input to AQMD on how to engage communities affected by air pollution, suggesting outreach via social media, local businesses like laundromats, and other potentially untapped resources, as well as at events happening within their communities.

August 2024 - YLAC members received an interactive demonstration of the Mobile Air Monitoring Platform and discussed new transportation initiatives like hydrogen fuel cells and high-speed rail.

Proposed YLAC Goals for 2025:

Increase Youth Engagement in Environmental Justice Activities, Events and Resources:

Participate in youth-targeted events and workshops to represent the youth voice in environmental justice arenas.

Increase Public Health and Air Quality Equity Awareness:

Support initiatives that reduce health disparities in communities affected by air pollution.

Strengthen Collaboration with Educational Institutions and Environmental Organizations:

Encourage partnerships with schools to integrate air quality education into curriculums. Foster collaborative learning sessions with environmental organizations to share insights, best practices, and recent advances in air quality management.

Looking Ahead:

YLAC remains committed to being a bridge between young leaders and South Coast AQMD, ensuring that the concerns of youth and disproportionately impacted communities are heard. The council will continue to offer insights that advance environmental justice and clean air for all

Acknowledgments:

South Coast AQMD wants to thank the YLAC members for their dedication and thoughtful contributions. We extend our gratitude to the South Coast AQMD Governing Board for their support in empowering the next generation of environmental leaders.



The Ralph M. Brown Act:

A Primer

Sheri Hanizavareh

Principal Deputy District Counsel

South Coast Air Quality Management District

Right of Access

"The people ... do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created." (Gov. Code Section 54950)



Applicability

Meetings of "**legislative bodies**" (Gov. Code Section 54952)

- Governing body
- Appointed body
- Standing committees

Exceptions:

- Ad hoc: advisory
committee that is made
up of less than a **quorum**of a legislative body (with
some exceptions)



Meetings:

What are they? (and what are they <u>not</u>?)

What is a Meeting?

Any congregation of a **majority** of the members of a legislative body at the same time and location, including teleconference location ... **to hear, discuss, deliberate, or take action on any item that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body**. (Gov. Code Section 54952.2)

Common Types of Meetings:

- Regular
- Special



"I believe we have a quorum for the meeting."



Individual Contacts

Employees and agency officials may engage in separate conversations or communications in order to answer questions or provide information regarding matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the local agency IF that person does not then communicate to members of the legislative body the comments or position of any other member(s) of the legislative body.



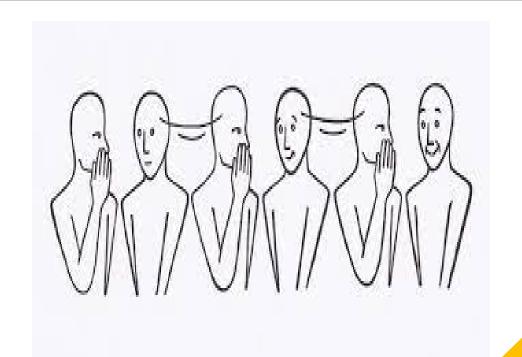


Impermissible Serial Meetings:

A series of communications, each of which involves less than a quorum of the legislative body, *but which taken as a whole*, involves a majority of the body's members. (Gov. Code Section 54952.2(b)(1))



- Daisy Chain
- Hub and Spoke



E-mails (and texts)

Use of e-mail among a majority of members of a legislative body is prohibited:

- Refrain from discussion or decisionmaking
- Do not hit "Reply All" (might be considered a serial meeting)

... and Text Messages:

City of San Jose v. Superior Court (2017) 2 Cal.5th 608

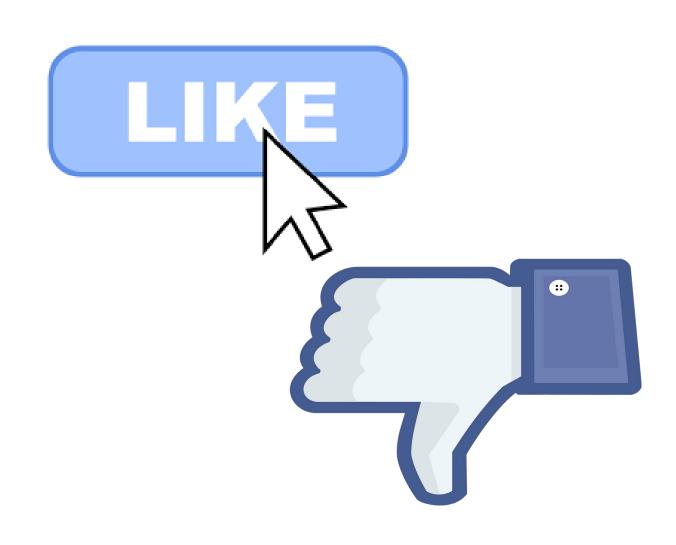
California Public Records Act



Social Media

Assembly Bill 992 (January 1, 2021)

- Can answer questions, provide information to the public, or solicit information from the public.
- May **NOT** use social media to communicate with other members of a legislative body constituting a majority of the legislative body about business that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency . This may include:
 - Hitting like or up/downvoting
 - Retweeting
 - Responding



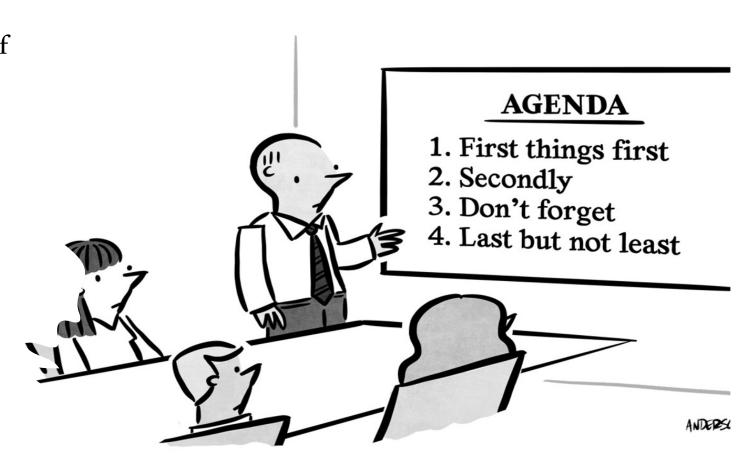
Agendas and Notice

Notice

Posted agenda should advise the public of the meeting and the matters to be transacted or discussed. (Gov. Code Section 54954.2)

What is required for a regular meeting?

- 72 hours
- Online and on-site
- Time and place
- "Brief general description of each item of business."



Documents & Posting

- Location of documents for publicinspection (less than 72 hours). (Gov.Code Section 54957.5
- Website posting
- Hard copies posted in a location that is freely accessible to the public. (Gov. Code Sections 54954.2(a)(1))
- Alternative formats



Special Meetings

- 24-hour notice
- Time and place
- No other business to be conducted



Non-Agenda Items

- 1. **Emergency** situations and emergency meetings
- 2. When 2/3 of the members present (or all, if less than 2/3 present) determine there is a need for **immediate action** and the need to take action came to the agency's attention subsequent to the agenda being posted. Requires **urgency**.
- 3. When an item appeared on the agenda of, and was **continued** from, a meeting held not more than five days earlier.

(Gov. Code Section 54954.2(b))



Other Exceptions

- Brief response to testimony
- Clarification
- Certain discussions with staff

(Gov. Code Section 54954.2(a)(2))



Public Participation

- Agenda must provide public with opportunity to comment on each agenda item before any action is taken on that item.
- Also on any topic that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body.
- Time limits = reasonable
- Teleconference locations

(See e.g. Gov. Code Sections 54953, 54954.3)



Closed Session

- Default \rightarrow Open meetings
- Express legal authority required to close a meeting
- Agenda and report back
- Confidentiality
- Exceptions include:
 - Litigation
 - Public employment
 - Labor negotiations



Impacts of the Pandemic, Penalties, and Wrap-up

Teleconferencing

Traditional Rules:

- Quorum
- Noticed and publicly available teleconference locations

AB 2499: teleconferencing without notice (effective March 1, 2023)

- Quorum
- Limited circumstances
- Just Cause
- Emergencies
- Must appear on screen with sound on



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Remedies and Penalties

- Invalidation of actions taken by the legislative body
- Civil action
- Criminal complaints

- Look at:

San Joaquin Raptor Rescue Center v. County of

Merced (2013) 216 Cal.App.4th 1167

Hernandez v. Town of Apple Valley (2017) 7

Cal.App.5th 194



This presentation is intended to be a basic primer regarding the Brown Act. For more detailed discussion, please consult the following resources:

1. League of California Cities, Open & Public V: A Guide to the Ralph M.
Brown Act, https://www.calcities.org/docs/default-source/city-attorneys/open-public-v-revised-2016.pdf?sfvrsn=995414c9_3

2. Attorney General's Office, The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies, https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/the-brown-act.pdf

3. California Special District Association, Brown Act Compliance Manual for Special Districts, https://www.bwslaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Brown-Act-Manual-for-Special-Districts.pdf



Questions, Thoughts, Concerns?

Sheri Hanizavareh

Principal Deputy District Counsel

South Coast Air Quality Management District

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