

**SAMTRANS**  
**CORRESPONDENCE**  
**as of 1-5-2024**

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



JOSH POWELL, CHAIR  
MARINA FRASER, VICE CHAIR  
DAVID J. CANEPA  
MARIE CHUANG  
BROOKS ESSER  
JEFF GEE  
RICO E. MEDINA  
RAY MUELLER  
PETER RATTO

APRIL CHAN  
GENERAL MANAGER/CEO



RICO E. MEDINA, CHAIR  
CARLOS ROMERO, VICE CHAIR  
EMILY BEACH  
NOELIA CORZO  
JULIA MATES  
RAY MUELLER  
MARK NAGALES

APRIL CHAN  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

January 4, 2024

The Honorable Juan Carillo  
Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 157  
Sacramento, CA

**RE: AB 817 (Pacheco) Brown Act – SUPPORT**

Chair Carillo:

On behalf of the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) and San Mateo County Transportation Authority (TA), I write today in **SUPPORT** of AB 817 (Pacheco), which would modify the Ralph M. Brown Act in a way that better serves our communities and recognizes the significant advancements to remote meeting technology happening today.

As currently constituted, the Brown Act casts a wide net when it comes to defining legislative bodies. This bill would provide the necessary flexibility for advisory bodies that can take no action or establish policy on behalf of a local elected body to continue to return to meeting remotely without having to follow quorum, location notification, and accessibility requirements required by the Brown Act and/or AB 2449 (Rubio). Our agencies have several advisory committees to help guide our work, such as the SamTrans and TA Citizens Advisory Committees, which consist of members of the public, most of whom work outside jobs unrelated to the effort they put in for our agencies.

Providing additional flexibility for these non-decision-making advisory bodies to meet remotely will incentivize and enable participation from well-qualified, interested individuals, while allowing them to maintain unrelated commitments for work, school, and their families. It will also improve the ability of members of historically underserved and underrepresented communities, and those who live and/or work far from their local government offices, to participate in advisory bodies. Recruitment for these committees is difficult and the ability for members to participate from home, without sacrificing their privacy by publishing their addresses and opening their doors to all who may wish to enter, dramatically reduces the burdens of serving.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT** AB 817. 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 blue ink, appearing to read "April Chan".

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  
San Mateo County Transportation Authority State Legislative Delegation