

# Summary of California Executive Orders Related to COVID-19 and the Brown Act (as of April 20, 2020)

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## Executive Order [N-25-20](#) (March 12, 2020) –

Original declaration of emergency. Paragraph 11 speaks to Brown Act.

## Executive Order [N-29-20](#) (March 17, 2020) –

Supersedes Paragraph 11, above. Suspends in-person requirements under the Brown Act, allows teleconferencing as exclusive means of meeting. Includes the following language:

"Notwithstanding any other provision of state or local law (including, but not limited to, the Bagley-Keene Act or the Brown Act), and subject to the notice and accessibility requirements set forth below, **a local legislative body or state body is authorized to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and to make public meetings accessible telephonically or otherwise electronically to all members of the public** seeking to observe and to address the local legislative body or state body. All requirements in both the Bagley-Keene Act and the Brown Act expressly or impliedly requiring the physical presence of members, the clerk or other personnel of the body, or of the public as a condition of participation in or quorum for a public meeting are hereby waived."

"A local legislative body... that holds a meeting via teleconferencing **and allows members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or otherwise electronically, consistent with the notice and accessibility requirements set forth below, shall have satisfied any requirement that the body allow members of the public to attend the meeting and offer public comment.** Such a body need not make available any physical location from which members of the public may observe the meeting and offer public comment."

## Executive Order [N-35-20](#) (March 21, 2020) –

Board members may receive updates from government officials, and ask questions of them, related to the Covid emergency. But, members of a board cannot discuss amongst themselves or take action on this information without a properly-noticed meeting.