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April 12, 2021

Assembly Member Robert Rivas  
 California State Assembly  
 State Capitol, Room 5158  
 Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) – Support**

Dear Assembly Member Rivas:

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is pleased to support Assembly Bill (AB) 361, related to the Ralph M. Brown Act (“the Brown Act”). OC San provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County, CA. OC San’s primary mission is to protect public health and the environment through its services.

In light of the stay-at-home order and the need to keep individuals physically distanced from one another, Governor Newsom issued a number of subsequent executive orders (N-25-20, N-29-20, N-35-20) modifying the requirements of the Brown Act. AB 361 seeks to codify several provisions from within the executive orders.

AB 361 would allow local agencies to safely meet remotely during an emergency. The changes to the law included in AB 361 are what have allowed local agencies to continue to operate while also complying with important public health directives issued by officials during the COVID-19 pandemic; by enshrining these provisions in statute, this bill ensures that local agencies would continue to be able to remain safe in future emergencies including those that threaten public health.

AB 361 will include important safeguards that ensure public agency transparency and public access. For a public agency to utilize these provisions to meet remotely, a local agency must meet subsequent or concurrent to a proclaimed state of emergency or declared local emergency and declare that the nature of the emergency would prevent them from safely meeting in-person.

For these reasons, OC San is pleased to support Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas). Please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Cabral, OC San’s Administration Manager at (714) 593-7581 or via email at [jcabral@ocsan.gov](mailto:jcabral@ocsan.gov) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David John Shawver  
 Board Chairman

CC: Orange County Legislative Delegation  
 California Special District’s Association

*Our Mission: To protect public health and the environment by providing effective wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling.*

- Serving:
- Anaheim
- Brea
- Buena Park
- Cypress
- Fountain Valley
- Fullerton
- Garden Grove
- Huntington Beach
- Irvine
- La Habra
- La Palma
- Los Alamitos
- Newport Beach
- Orange
- Placentia
- Santa Ana
- Seal Beach
- Stanton
- Tustin
- Villa Park
- County of Orange
- Costa Mesa Sanitary District
- Midway City Sanitary District
- Irvine Ranch Water District
- Yorba Linda Water District