

# The County of Yuba

## County Administrator

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** County Administrator, Michelle Logan

**SUBJECT:** County Administrator: Approve letter of support for Assembly Bill 817, which allows teleconferencing for non-decision making legislative bodies, and authorize Chair to execute. (Five Minute Estimate).

**DATE:** February 13, 2024

**NUMBER:** 56/2024

### *Recommendation*

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a letter of support for AB 817 authored by Assembly Member Blanca Pacheco, which would remove barriers to entry for appointed and elected office, by allowing non-decision-making legislative bodies that cannot take final action to participate in two way virtual teleconferencing without posting locations. This bill would only cover advisory bodies that do not make decisions, but merely provide recommendations to decision-makers

### *Background and Discussion*

Participation in local advisory bodies often serves as an entry point for greater civic engagement and a pathway for public service. Local governments across the state have faced an ongoing challenge to recruit and retain members of the public on advisory bodies, boards, and commissions, and often, the voices at the table do not include those who are representative of the community the decisions will impact most. The in-person requirement for participation in local advisory bodies presents a disproportionate challenge for those with physical or economic limitations including seniors; persons with disability; single parents and/or caretakers; economically marginalized groups; and those who live in rural areas and, thereby, face prohibitive driving distances and limited public transit.

AB 817 protects access and transparency while providing for increased diverse community input and creating a much-needed pathway for residents to participate in local government.

*Committee Action:*

None. Due to the nature and discussion of the item, this item is being presented to the full Board of Supervisors for consideration.

*Fiscal Impact:*

No funding commitment, administrative only, staff time only

*Attachments*

Letter of Support