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April 8, 2022

The Honorable Blanca Rubio
California State Assembly
Capitol Office, 1021 O Street, Suite 5250
P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249

RE: AB 2449 (Rubio) - SUPPORT

Dear Assemblymember Rubio,

On behalf of the City of Cupertino, I am writing to express support for AB 2449 (Rubio), which would eliminate the previously existing concept of teleconference locations and revise notice requirements to allow for greater public participation in teleconference meetings of local agencies.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, teleconference meetings provided a unique opportunity for Californians across the state to better participate in both local and statewide government meetings. Many local elected officials and appointed members have also participated remotely in official business and have shown effective leadership while keeping themselves and their families healthy and safe.

AB 2449 would require that a quorum of the governing body be physically present at a clearly identified meeting location for all public meetings. The bill also expresses legislative intent to improve and enhance public access to local agency meetings, consistent with the digital age, by allowing broader access through the teleconferencing options on a consistent ongoing basis outside of a declared emergency.

AB 2449 does not require teleconferencing, rather, it modernizes existing law to ensure greater public participation in meetings of the legislative bodies of local agencies who choose to utilize teleconferencing. While current law does allow for “teleconference locations” under normal circumstances, it requires that various actions be taken at the teleconference locations and fails to recognize in the modern digital age that a teleconference location is wherever there is a person with a computer, tablet, or mobile phone.

Providing livestreams and call-in or video options for public participation benefit those who have traditionally faced obstacles in interacting with local government, such as working

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families, parents without childcare, low-income communities, or people with disabilities. For these reasons, the City of Cupertino supports AB 2449.

Sincerely,



Darcy Paul
Mayor
City of Cupertino

cc: Senator Dave Cortese
Senator Josh Becker
Assemblymember Evan Low
Assemblymember Marc Berman