

March 21, 2024 – Agenda Item #8E – Supplemental Correspondence

**BAY AREA WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

March 21, 2024

TO: BAWSCA Board of Directors
FROM: Nicole Sandkulla, CEO/General Manager
DATE: March 21, 2024
SUBJECT: Supplemental Correspondence Packet

Communication addressed to BAWSCA Board between March 16, 2024 and March 20, 2024 in response to [Sierra Club Article originally published March 7, 2024](#), and updated March 19, 2024 (attached).

- Michael Gliksohn
- Carol Steinfeld
- Grace Dewar
- Stephanie Glatt
- Kathleen Hart
- Molly Culton
- Katja Irvin
- William L Martin
- David Hayes
- M. Virginia Leslie
- Matthew Rivers
- Joan Jeffrey
- Missy Pants
- Rebecca Haggerty
- Norma Krishnan
- Kathy Popoff
- Britton Pyland
- Sheryl Pennell
- Janet Maker
- Louisa Amis

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Remote Participation at Public Meetings – A Right or A Privilege?

Sierra Club | March 19, 2024 | Jakob Evans



[Update: Because of this article, BAWSCA's CEO, Nicole Sandkulla, reached out to Sierra Club California staff to share an update on the Board's progress to return remote participation. They shared that technical difficulties have delayed their efforts but that live streams of their Board meetings and Board Policy Committee meetings can be expected beginning in April. They do not have a plan to implement remote public comment at this time.]

On the 27th of February, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) took an important step to increase its transparency and accessibility by returning remote public comment to their Commission meetings. The SFPUC removed remote public comment in October of 2023 after San Francisco Mayor London Breed requested all Commissions follow the precedent set by the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which eliminated the service in response to a hate speech incident.

The return of remote public comment was brought to a vote at the request of Commissioner Ajami, who argued that the SFPUC should be more accessible to its 2.7 million customers who live across the Bay Area. The item passed 3-2, with Commissioners Ajami, Maxwell, and Stacy voting in support, and Commissioners Paulson and Rivera voting against. The three yes votes were from Commissioners with more experience in the environmental sector and keen understandings of environmental justice. Commissioner Sophie Maxwell explained her 'yes' vote, saying "This is real democracy... when a person can call from anywhere and have direct contact with a policymaker, that's what this country is about."

This major win for transparency and inclusivity will allow Sierra Club California and its allies to better mobilize to oppose the SFPUC's harmful actions against the Bay-Delta.

Remote public comment is a keystone of any transparent, accessible democracy because the service allows community members who are disabled, older, caregivers, students, hourly paid and working-class to make their voices heard in local government. Without remote public comment, members of the public are required to take time out of their day to attend public meetings that often occur during working hours, preventing the voices of vulnerable community members from being heard.

The San Francisco Mayor's decision to remove remote public comment does not align with the attitudes of the majority of California cities. A recent survey by CommonCause found that 69 percent of cities utilized remote public comment in the post-pandemic era. The survey also found that 56 percent of cities that utilized remote public comment saw a general increase in public participation. Remote public comment was normalized during the pandemic and it remains in place across California because it increases public engagement. Those in power who advocate against remote public comment, such as Mayor London Breed, are removing a commonplace service that expands engagement in local politics. This reduces the transparency of local government and allows local politicians to avoid public scrutiny.

Some California water agencies have branded remote public comment as a no-longer-needed, pandemic-era service in attempts to shield their work from the public eye. The Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA) removed its remote engagement options in recent years and has ignored public calls to bring it back. BAWSCA replaced the ability for members of the public to remotely participate in its Board meetings via Zoom in September 2022 with a remote option only for the disabled to schedule a remote participation option via written request at least two days prior to the meeting. While the rights of the disabled population to access public meetings was upheld, the general public lost its ability to virtually access the meetings, placing barriers to the elderly, caregivers, working-class people, and any other Bay Area resident unable to take personal time out of their day to attend Board meetings in person.

In response to calls from community members, BAWSCA has made vague promises to return a live stream of their meetings to the public. The Board had one semi-successful livestream during their December Policy Committee meeting but has failed to return the option since.

Both the SFPUC and BAWSCA are pursuing anti-environmental lawsuits against the implementation of updates to the Bay-Delta plan and are supporting environmentally disastrous Voluntary Agreements (VAs). Remote public comment will ensure that community members who would bear the brunt of these harmful actions will have the ability to access public meetings and advocate for environmental and social justice. BAWSCA must take note from their neighbors at the SFPUC and reimplement remote participation.

Constituents hold sway over their local government and can use that power to demand remote participation services.

###

What can you do?

[Take Action by sending a message](#) to board members telling them to restore remote participation at their board meetings.

From: [Michael Gliksohn \(mgliksohn@gmail.com\)](mailto:mgliksohn@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: bawscaboardofdirectors
Subject: Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:12:39 PM

Dear BAWSCA Board of Directors,

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Michael Gliksohn
6108 Santa Cruz Ave
Richmond, CA 94804
mgliksohn@gmail.com
(510) 219-5357

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

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From: [Carol Steinfeld \(flowscapes@gmail.com\)](mailto:flowscapes@gmail.com) Sent You a Personal Message
To: bawscaboardofdirectors
Subject: Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA
Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024 1:55:34 PM

Dear BAWSCA Board of Directors,

Restore livestreamed meetings with remote public comment opportunities to meet modern democratic practice. Without it, BAWSCA looks closed-door, anti-democratic, uncooperative, and provincial. Much good came from the public comment during the lockdown years when BAWSCA conducted Zoom meetings. No municipal legal counsel can find the requirement BAWSCA cites as its reason to halt Zoom meetings---while nearly every agency and city committee and council meeting in California is livestreamed. That includes SFPUC meetings, which have been livestreamed with call-in public comment for years before Covid. Please adhere to democratic practice and resume livestreamed accessible meetings.

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Carol Steinfeld
901 Oregon Ave.
San Mateo, CA 94402
flowscapes@gmail.com
(978) 760-0034

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

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From: [Grace Dewar \(gmarion1941@gmail.com\) Sent You a Personal Message](mailto:gmarion1941@gmail.com)
To: bawscaboardofdirectors
Subject: Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA
Date: Monday, March 18, 2024 4:19:17 PM

Dear BAWSCA Board of Directors,

Please do the right thing:

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Grace Dewar
122 Secluded Oaks Ct
Chico, CA 95928
gmarion1941@gmail.com
(530) 893-0232

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

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From: [Stephanie Glatt \(stephanieglatt@gmail.com\) Sent You a Personal Message](mailto:stephanieglatt@gmail.com)
To: bawscaboardofdirectors
Subject: Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA
Date: Sunday, March 17, 2024 1:51:38 PM

Dear BAWSCA Board of Directors,

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Stephanie Glatt
573 Tamarind Ln
Buellton, CA 93427
stephanieglatt@gmail.com
(805) 691-9063

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

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From: [Kathleen Hart \(hartkat@att.net\) Sent You a Personal Message](#)
To: [bawscaboardofdirectors](#)
Subject: Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA
Date: Saturday, March 16, 2024 11:41:28 AM

Dear BAWSCA Board of Directors,

You can't be everywhere and see everything. You need full community input to do your job.

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Kathleen Hart
765 Rose Drive
Benicia, CA 94510
hartkat@att.net
(707) 748-1734

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Member Care at Sierra Club at member.care@sierraclub.org or (415) 977-5673.

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

Please restore virtual remote participation at BAWSCA meetings. This enhances the transparency of the important work BAWSCA is doing and increases public engagement and access.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Molly Culton,
95814, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

Increasing public participation increases transparency and accountability. Providing an option so people don't have to drive from Hayward or Palo Alto is also more environmentally sustainable. This is especially important because BAWSCA covers such a large geographic area. Many more will be able to participate, which public agencies should welcome.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Katja Irvin
95116, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

Please note that SFPUC is now allowing remote public comment. If they can do it, so can you!

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
William L Martin
94112, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

We demand remote participation to all public utility meetings, including water districts and especially power companies.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
David Hayes
94963, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
M. Virginia Leslie
95035, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Matthew Rivers
91326, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

Be transparent.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Joan Jeffrey
95474, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

I hope you get this email.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Missy Pants
95814, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

Remote access to public meetings improves engagement. I have successfully used remote access to participate in governmental meetings. Please implement policies to provide remote access to your meetings.

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Haggerty
95124, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Norma Krishnan
92346, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

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The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Kathy Popoff
90732, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

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The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Britton Pyland
94705, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

What are you hiding by shutting the public out?

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Sherryl Pennell
95004, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

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The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Janet Maker
90024, CA

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March 18, 2024

BAWSCA Board of Directors
155 Bovet Road, Suite 650
San Mateo, California 94402

Restore Remote Participation at BAWSCA

Dear Board Members,

The removal of remote participation in BAWSCA Board meetings has reduced the transparency of the agency and has excluded the voices of the elderly, working-class, and caregiving community members from sharing their vital perspectives on the actions BAWSCA takes.

Remote participation became the new normal during the pandemic and remains in place in the majority of California cities. BAWSCA must re-implement remote participation options including live streams of Board meetings and remote public comment services. As BAWSCA continues its anti-environmental lawsuit against the State Water Board and chooses to support environmentally harmful voluntary agreements (VAs), the Board must remain transparent and ensure the voices of marginalized communities are heard at public meetings.

The Board must restore remote participation, including live streams and remote public comment. Thank you for recognizing the impact that remote participation has on increasing the accessibility and transparency of BAWSCA.

Sincerely,
Louisa Amis
92374, CA

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