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Memorandum

To: MTC Legislation Committee Date: November 11, 2021
From: MTC Policy Advisory Council Work Item: 1114
Regarding: 2022 Draft Advocacy Program: Brown Act Reforms

At its November 10, 2021, meeting, the Policy Advisory Council received a presentation on the 2022 Draft Advocacy Program. Among the priorities discussed for the 2021-22 state legislative session were Brown Act reforms.

Acknowledging that holding public meetings virtually has increased accessibility for both Council members and members of the public, the Council voted in support of the Brown Act reform element of the 2022 Draft Advocacy Program (Assembly Bill 361 - Rivas). In particular, the Council recommends that the Commission support Brown Act reforms and MTC policies to allow the following:

- Allow Council members to continue meeting virtually once hybrid meetings are implemented and/or in-person meetings resume;
- Allow virtual public participation once hybrid meetings are implemented and/or in-person meetings resume; and
- Continue exploring innovative meeting techniques, e.g., whether transparent and accessible breakout groups are possible during public meetings.