



JOEL ANDERSON

**SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: March 24, 2026

20

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT

**ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AD HOC
SUBCOMMITTEES THAT DEMONSTRATES TRANSPARENCY AND
ACCOUNTABILITY (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Board of Supervisors Policy A-74, Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees provides significant guidance and rules governing the activities of standing and special boards, commissions, committees and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues of policy and to serve as links to the community. However, Policy A-74 does not provide this same level of guidance or rules to govern the actions and meeting procedures of ad hoc subcommittees created by the Board and entirely comprised of members of the Board of Supervisors.

In order for our constituents to stay apprised of and participate in these meetings, particularly when important policy and financial matters are discussed and acted upon, Board Policy A-74 should be amended to include rules and guidance for the operations of ad hoc subcommittees created by the Board. County residents could benefit by having full access to ad hoc subcommittee meeting information, by having the opportunity to attend and submit information during or after subcommittee meetings and to review records of the items considered and acted upon during those meetings.

Among the actions to be required by ad hoc subcommittees should be the timely postings of meeting agendas prior to meetings, Countywide notification to citizens of scheduled meetings and the on-line posting of meeting materials and records. Such actions would mirror efforts taken by the County to ensure the public is aware of, and can attend, regular Board of Supervisors meetings and in the numerous meetings of boards, commissions, committees, councils, panels, teams and task forces created to advise the Board and County staff.

To maintain the County's high standards of transparency, I recommend that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer to establish a County web page for ad hoc subcommittee activities and that the Clerk of the Board coordinate with County Counsel to amend Board Policy A-74, or

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draft a new Board policy if necessary, to clearly identify the actions that Board of Supervisors ad hoc subcommittees must comply with to ensure the proper level of transparency. The amendments should specify how these meetings are conducted and how the public can attend and monitor meeting activities and access materials both in real time and following the meetings.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON

- 1) Direct the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to coordinate with County Counsel and return to the Board in 30 days with amendments to Board Policy A-74, "Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees," or draft a new Board policy if necessary, to require, but not be limited to, the following actions by Board ad hoc subcommittees:
 - a. create and publicly post agendas for all subcommittee meetings at least 72 hours prior to a meeting;
 - b. conduct all subcommittee meetings in an accessible public location, ensuring they are open to the public;
 - c. require all subcommittee meetings, including presentations to the subcommittees, to be streamed live, recorded, and posted so the public can view them in real time and following meetings.
 - d. record and make available to the public the minutes for all subcommittee meetings;
 - e. maintain and make available to the public copies of all presentations, handouts, and other supporting documents submitted, distributed, or used during all subcommittee meetings;
 - f. record, maintain, and make available to the public any public communications submitted during all subcommittee meetings;
 - g. maintain and make available to the public all memos to or from the subcommittee;
 - h. make available to the public the member rosters, purpose, and expected duration of each subcommittee;
 - i. make available to the public subcommittee consultant information (name, contact information, cost, contract term, information generated by consultant);
 - j. include the participation of at least one County staff member, designated by the Chief Administrative Officer, in each agendaized subcommittee meeting.
- 2) Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to establish and maintain a County webpage listing current Board ad hoc subcommittees, and post all of the information and documentation identified in Recommendation #1 on that webpage.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Regular Board of Supervisors meetings are conducted in a manner that guarantees the public can participate by viewing and submitting communications regarding the Board's publicly noticed meetings. Board Policy A-74 also requires the County's advisory standing and special boards, commissions, committees, and task forces to abide by procedures and rules that ensure the opportunity for public participation. These practices allow all County residents, regardless of

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their ethnicity, economic situation, age, physical condition, religious beliefs, or other backgrounds or characteristics to express their views and witness deliberations and decisions made by entities operating under County purview. By amending Board Policy A-74 to establish requirements for Board ad hoc subcommittees, the County can ensure that these subcommittees also act in an open and transparent manner.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Amending Board Policy A-74 to establish consistent and transparent procedures and rules for Board ad hoc subcommittees will help to ensure that subcommittee decisions and recommendations will better reflect Countywide priorities, enhancing the County's fiscal and operational sustainability. This action will assist in the County's efforts to continue to provide equitable access to essential programs and services for our region's underserved populations.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There may be future fiscal impacts associated with future related recommendations, which staff would return to the Board for consideration and approval. If approved, the recommended action will result in no change in General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

Ad hoc subcommittees created by the Board have been tasked with considering, adopting and bringing recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors that could directly impact the County's business community. By ensuring all subcommittees adhere to a consistent open and transparent process, the region's businesses will have an opportunity to monitor and participate in the meetings and activities of the Board's ad hoc subcommittees.

ADVISORY BOARD STATEMENT

N/A

BACKGROUND

Board of Supervisors Policy A-74, Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees provides significant guidance and rules governing the activities of standing and special boards, commissions, committees and task forces formed to advise the Board of Supervisors and County staff on issues of policy and to serve as links to the community. However, Policy A-74 does not provide this same level of guidance or rules to govern the actions and meeting procedures of ad hoc subcommittees created by the Board and entirely comprised of members of the Board of Supervisors. It is critical for the public to know how they can keep themselves apprised of and participate in these meetings, particularly when important policy and financial matters are discussed and acted upon.

During the past few years, the Board established several new ad hoc subcommittees to narrowly focus on specific topics and to bring information and recommendations to the full Board to consider. These subcommittees included the following:

- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Artificial Intelligence and Transformative Technologies
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Medi-Cal/Medicaid

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- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Social Safety Net and Behavioral Health Systems Transformation.
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Sustainable Fiscal Planning
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Fiscal Transparency and Accountability
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on the Tijuana River Sewage Crisis
- Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice

If the County establishes clear policy and rules for Board ad hoc committees to follow, we can ensure consistency in the manner in which these meetings are held, ensure the public will be able to easily access meeting materials and other documents, submit information during and after meetings, and review meeting outcomes. This action could help prevent the erosion of public trust in the Board's decision-making process.

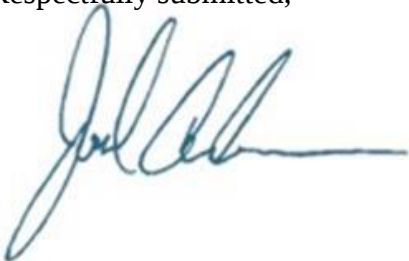
By amending Board Policy A-74 to include rules and guidance for the operations of ad hoc subcommittees created by the Board, County residents could benefit by having full access to ad hoc subcommittee meeting information, by having the opportunity to attend and to review records of the items considered and acted upon during those meetings. Among the actions to be required by ad hoc subcommittees are the timely postings of meeting agendas prior to meetings, Countywide outreach to notify citizens of scheduled meetings and the on-line posting of meeting materials and records. Such actions would mirror efforts taken by the County to ensure the public is aware of, and can provide feedback on, regular Board of Supervisors meetings and in the numerous meetings of boards, commissions, committees, councils, panels, teams and task forces created to advise the Board and County staff.

To establish this new level of transparency, I recommend that the Board direct the Chief Administrative Officer to establish a County web page for ad hoc subcommittee activities and that the Clerk of the Board coordinate with County Counsel to amend Board Policy A-74, or draft a new Board policy if necessary, to clearly identify the actions that Board of Supervisors ad hoc subcommittees must comply with to ensure the proper level of transparency. The amendments should specify how the public can attend and monitor meeting activities and access materials both in real time and following the meetings.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO STRATEGIC PLAN

This item supports the County of San Diego's 2026–2031 Strategic Plan's Empower (Transparency and Accountability) initiative by guaranteeing that the public knows about, and has the opportunity to monitor and participate in, Board ad hoc subcommittee meetings. It also supports the Community (Engagement) initiative, inspiring civic engagement by providing information, programs, public forums or other avenues that increase access for individuals or communities to use their voice, their vote, and their experience to impact change.

Respectfully submitted,



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Supervisor, Second District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A