

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 9

**SUBJECT: ADVANCING TRANSPARENCY AND ENGAGEMENT BY EXTENDING
AGENDA REVIEW TIME (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego's (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) holds regular bi-weekly sessions to address a wide range of community matters, enabling informed discussions, decision-making, and public participation. Meeting agendas are made available to the public in advance, in compliance with legal requirements, promoting transparency and inclusivity. However, there is an opportunity to enhance transparency and accessibility by extending the time for stakeholders to access and analyze agenda items. Other jurisdictions follow similar practices, allowing the public more time for review and input.

For residents of unincorporated areas, attending Board meetings at the County Administration Center (CAC) presents significant challenges. The drive alone can take over three hours, particularly during peak traffic hours, to arrive by the 9:00 AM start time. Public transportation is often not a viable alternative, as limited routes connecting rural communities to downtown San Diego require multiple transfers and result in travel times that also exceed three hours. Additionally, some bus and trolley services begin operating only shortly before the start of Board meetings, making it nearly impossible for residents to arrive on time. Residents who work traditional business hours must also request time off, creating financial and logistical burdens, particularly for hourly workers. Despite remote alternatives like calling in and submitting electronic comments, challenges remain for backcountry residents during Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The inability to participate in real-time limits their engagement and effective communication, significantly restricting public involvement in the decision-making process.

By extending the agenda review period, residents would have more time to analyze agenda items, make necessary arrangements, and ensure their voices are heard in the democratic process. Various jurisdictions, including the California Legislature and other cities and counties, employ similar practices, granting the public extended periods to review legislative and policy items before governing bodies cast their votes. In addition to the Legislature, which requires bills to be introduced and in print for a minimum of thirty days before they can be acted upon, other jurisdictions provide anywhere from seven to ten days for public review, emphasizing the importance of transparency and public access in decision-making processes. By adopting such best practices, the County of San Diego can continue to lead in promoting transparency and facilitating public participation.

To further strengthen transparency and public engagement, today's action proposes adjusting the Board agenda process, providing the community with more time to review and contribute to discussions on proposed items before they are voted upon by the Board. This aligns with the County's commitment to open governance and encourages a broader range of perspectives to shape Board decisions.

RECOMMENDATION(S)**SUPERVISOR JOEL ANDERSON**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to investigate the potential to adjust the current process for publicly posting Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting agendas to provide the public additional time to review items that will be considered and voted upon during Board meetings and report back to the Board in 180 days with recommendations. The analysis should include an assessment of additional public notice times up to and including 30 days before consideration at a Board meeting.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

By extending the amount of time the public has to review Board of Supervisors meeting agendas and related materials, we create a more accessible process for underserved individuals who may have limited access to technology, mobility issues or other challenges and need additional time to comprehensively review agenda items. This inclusivity ensures that all community members, regardless of their background or ability, can engage actively and contribute their perspectives.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

A more informed and engaged public contributes to social sustainability. By providing stakeholders the time and information necessary to provide meaningful input on matters of public interest, we nurture a sense of trust, responsibility, and shared commitment to the well-being of our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with this recommendation. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

By fostering transparency, promoting informed decision-making, and strengthening civic engagement, today's action aligns with the County of San Diego's strategic goals and demonstrates its commitment to accountable and inclusive governance practices.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Anderson, seconded by Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe

ABSENT: Desmond; (District 1 Seat Vacant)

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

APRIL 22, 2025