

Public Comment #'s 2, 3 & 11

BOS RCVD 1/2/2026

From: melody.lane@reagan.com
To: [BOS-Clerk of the Board; Kim Dawson](#)
Cc: [David A Livingston](#); [Sue Phillips](#); [Lori Parlin](#); [Brian K. Veerkamp](#); [Brooke Laine](#); [George Turnboog](#); [Greg P. Ferrero](#)
Subject: Please post Public Comments to 1/6/26 BOS Consent Items #2, #3, and #11
Date: Friday, January 2, 2026 11:54:28 AM
Attachments: [Brown Act Rights of the Public.docx](#)
[Brown Act Rights of the Public.docx](#)

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Please ensure that the entirety of my below public comments, including the attached Brown Act Rights of the Public, are posted to the 1/6/26 BOS Consent Items **#2, #3, and #11**.

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Compass2Truth was founded in 2009 based upon the Preamble of the Brown Act:

“The people, in delegating authority, **do not give their public servants** the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. **The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them.** The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created.”

The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted during their 11/18/25 meeting to make changes limiting citizen rights to comment during public meetings to a total of 3 minutes on all agenda items. This violation of First Amendment rights was deceptively done under the guise of "streamlining and efficiency." An end of the year policy announcement was then officially distributed just days before Christmas to further violate the Brown Act Rights of the Public. For the BOS to spring this announcement upon unaware citizens while they are preoccupied in Holiday festivities is nothing short of manipulative and evil.

Despotism creeps in and takes over when constituents fall asleep at the wheel and fail to challenge their government representatives. El Dorado County citizens are experiencing "death by a thousand cuts" to our *First Amendment rights at the hands of the BOS, and the **unelected** (acting) CAO Sue Phillips and County Counsel David Livingston:

* §54954.3 Public's right to testify at meetings. (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body...Care must be given to avoid violating the speech rights of speakers by suppressing opinions relevant to the business of the body. As such, **members of the public have broad constitutional rights** to comment on any subject relating to the business of the governmental body.

Any attempt to **restrict the content of such speech** must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest. Specifically, the courts found that policies that prohibited members of the public from criticizing [school district] employees were unconstitutional. (*Leventhal v. Vista Unified School Dist.* (1997) 973 F. Supp. 951; *Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School Dist.* (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719.) These decisions found that prohibiting critical comments was a form of viewpoint discrimination and that such a prohibition promoted discussion **artificially geared toward praising (and maintaining) the status quo, thereby foreclosing meaningful public dialog.**

The national Constitution is the supreme law of the land which is based upon biblical scriptures. Therefore, it is critically important that every citizen, especially Christians, to be aware of their sovereignty and exercise their rights to hold public servants accountable to their constitutional oaths of office. Accordingly, the attached Brown Act Rights of the Public and the following timely message from the Salt and Light Council are relevant to each of the above listed 1/6/26 BOS Consent calendar items:

"POLITICS" IS NOT A DIRTY WORD"

As we enter 2026 and the mid-term elections, be biblical in every sphere of life, especially in government, the bedrock that shapes so much of our daily quality of life. Some claim Christians have no place in politics and that Scripture forbids such involvement. This is deception. It binds the Church in chains and strips us of the God-given, God-ordained authority we are meant to exercise in the public square.

Politics is simply the exercise of governmental authority over a land. Jesus makes this unmistakably clear: "All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). God exercises this sovereignty through us as Christ's body with hands

that reach out; feet that move out; and voices that speak out to exercise His rule.

Scripture warns us plainly: “Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8).

When we expel God, the void does not remain empty. It fills quickly with evil—and **evil always corrupts**. Statehouses and courthouses become dumping grounds for laws once unthinkable, now enforced with zeal. Many believers stay silent, hoping to avoid the stench. Others deny the corruption exists at all. Both responses allow the decay to spread.

Picture a house on fire. Firefighters have two jobs: put out the fire and rescue the people. That is our calling as believers. The Gospel saves souls—and obedience confronts the flames. When corruption enters and Christians stand by—passive or disengaged—the fire grows into an uncontrollable inferno.

Fires of corruption are extinguished by cutting off their oxygen—through prayer, praise, repentance, and obedience. We repent for apathy and silence. In doing so, we **break deception, expose lies, and invite truth back into our culture**. Action aligns us with God’s non-negotiable moral standards and rejects compromise.

Be God’s first-responders. Exercise governmental authority. Speak. Assemble. Petition. Write. Get involved:

- Register to vote and vote biblically.
- Run for office.
- Support candidates who uphold God’s values
- Attend county, city and schoolboard meetings.

Authority that comes from God cannot be overcome. The only thing that limits its power is our refusal to use it.

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Sincerely,

Melody Lane
Founder - Compass2Truth

"In keeping silent about evil, in burying it so deep within us that no sign of it appears on the surface we are implanting it, and it will rise up a thousandfold in the future. When we neither punish nor reproach evildoers...we are ripping the foundations of justice from beneath new generations." ~ Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn ~

CALIFORNIA BROWN ACT

PREAMBLE:

"The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right to decide what is good for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people do not yield their sovereignty to the bodies that serve them. The people insist on remaining informed to retain control over the legislative bodies they have created."

CHAPTER V.

RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC

§54954.3 Public's right to testify at meetings. (c) The legislative body of a local agency shall not prohibit public criticism of the policies, procedures, programs, or services of the agency, or of the acts or omissions of the legislative body. Nothing in this subdivision shall confer any privilege or protection for expression beyond that otherwise provided by law. Care must be given to avoid violating the speech rights of speakers by suppressing opinions relevant to the business of the body. As such, members of the public have broad constitutional rights to comment on any subject relating to the business of the governmental body.

Any attempt to restrict the content of such speech must be narrowly tailored to effectuate a compelling state interest. Specifically, the courts found that policies that prohibited members of the public from criticizing school district employees were unconstitutional. (*Leventhal v. Vista Unified School Dist.* (1997) 973 F. Supp. 951; *Baca v. Moreno Valley Unified School Dist.* (1996) 936 F. Supp. 719.) These decisions found that prohibiting critical comments was a form of viewpoint discrimination and that such a prohibition promoted discussion artificially geared toward praising (and maintaining) the status quo, thereby foreclosing meaningful public dialog.

54954.2 E (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3.

Where a member of the public raises an issue which has not yet come before the legislative body, the item may be briefly discussed but no action may be taken at that meeting. The purpose of the discussion is to permit a member of the public to raise an issue or problem with the legislative body or to permit the legislative body to provide information to the public, provide direction to its staff, or schedule the matter for a future meeting. (§ 54954.2(a).)

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