

Governance Policies of the Board

12.4 Technology Disruption

12.4.1 Response to Service Disruption. If a disruption to a meeting's remote access service prevents members of the public from attending or observing the meeting remotely, the following shall occur:

1. The Chair or Clerk of the Board shall immediately announce the disruption to the public.
2. The Chair may then call for a recess of the Open Session or convene in Closed Session, consistent with the Brown Act.
3. The meeting shall remain in recess for at least one hour or until service is restored, whichever is sooner. The recess period may be extended if restoration efforts are ongoing.

12.4.2 Efforts to Restore Service. Valley Water will make good faith efforts to restore remote access services, which may include troubleshooting teleconferencing software, resetting audiovisual equipment, attempting alternative connection methods, contacting necessary support staff or service providers, and switching to back-up equipment, if available. The Clerk of the Board shall document restoration efforts undertaken.

12.4.3 Reconvening the Open Session. The open session may be reconvened after at least one hour has elapsed from the time of disruption or as soon as service is restored, whichever occurs earlier. If the remote access service is restored before or at the time the meeting reconvenes, the meeting shall continue as normal.

12.4.3.1 If service has not been restored, Valley Water may convene and (1) adjourn the meeting, (2) continue the meeting in open session by adopting, by roll call vote, the following finding:

"Valley Water has made good faith efforts to restore telephonic or internet service in accordance with its Technology Disruption Policy, GP-12.4, and the public interest in continuing the meeting outweighs the public interest in remote public access."

12.4.3.2 Upon adoption of the finding, Valley Water may continue in open session even though remote access services have not been restored.

12.4.6 Recordkeeping. The Clerk of the Board shall enter a brief statement into the meeting minutes which will include the nature and time of the disruption, the restoration efforts undertaken, the time the meeting was reconvened (if applicable), and any finding adopted related to 12.4.4.

12.4.7 Review and Updates. This policy may be amended by the Board at a noticed public meeting in open session, not on the Consent Calendar.

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