

advance of the hearing. The newspapers selected shall serve the area affected by the item under consideration. Staff will make available in its offices the information provided to the Commission of the item.

I. Presiding at Meetings

The Chair shall preside at the meeting of the Commission. If s/he is absent or unable to act, the Vice Chair shall serve until the Chair returns or is able to act. The Vice Chair has all of the powers and duties of the Chair while acting as Chair. The Vice Chair shall preside at the TPW meetings and if the Vice Chair is absent, the Chair shall preside at the TPW meetings. If both the Chair and the Vice-Chair are absent from a meeting, the Executive Director shall open the meeting and the Commission shall elect a Chair to preside only at that meeting.

The Chair of the Commission, as the presiding officer, shall maintain order and decorum during all meetings, including those where remote participation is provided via telephonic or audiovisual platforms. Consistent with the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Chair may limit participation by individuals who engage in disruptive behavior, whether attending in person or remotely, in accordance with general meeting rules and applicable law. In the event of technological disruptions affecting remote access, the Chair shall announce the disruption and take reasonable steps to restore connectivity before continuing the meeting.

J. Quorum and Voting

A majority of the voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No act of the Commission shall be valid unless at least a majority of members present and casting votes on the item concur therein.

K. Reading of Minutes

Minutes may be approved on the consent agenda and shall include all “aye,” and “no” votes and abstentions, ~~on all actions of the Commission.~~

When any Commissioner participates remotely in a meeting, the official minutes shall clearly document the Commissioner’s name, the fact that remote participation occurred, and the statutory authority under which the participation was permitted (for example, disability accommodation pursuant to Government Code § 54953(c) or other applicable Brown Act provisions). This notation ensures transparency and compliance with SB 707 requirements for remote attendance.

14. Any implementing agency intending to take advantage of these reimbursement provisions understands its obligations and the risk that is inherently involved.

The Commission will approve reimbursement allocations only when it finds that the expenditures were and are consistent with RSTP/STBG programming and that the project is itself eligible for RSTPX. The availability of state RSTPX funds and the lack of specific legal impediment do not obligate the Commission to approve an allocation ahead of other allocations.

XI. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW GUIDELINES

A. Lead Agency

The Commission, under state legislation may be assigned responsibilities for the development of plans and projects which may require environmental review. In these cases where the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is the lead agency, it may have the responsibility for complying with applicable environmental review requirements under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and/or the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

B. Guidelines

1. Any environmental documents certified by the Commission must be in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and, when applicable, with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In implementing CEQA and NEPA requirements, the Commission shall be guided by the latest state and federal CEQA and NEPA Guidelines.
2. The Commission may join with another agency, such as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments or the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, to jointly prepare environmental documents for joint projects or plans.
- ~~3. Environmental documents certified by the Commission must comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and, when applicable, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). CEQA compliance shall incorporate recent statutory amendments (AB 130 and SB 131, 2025), including new exemptions for infill housing and streamlined review for qualifying transportation projects. NEPA compliance will follow agency-specific procedures due to the removal of CEQ implementing regulations from the Code of Federal Regulations (January 2026).~~
- 3.

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