

BROWN ACT

THE BROWN ACT

Presented by

BARBARA BOOTH GRUNWALD

Deputy County Counsel, Barbara Booth Grunwald, was raised in Nebraska and obtained her J.D. from Stanford Law School. Barbara has served in the public law sector both in private practice and with County Counsels' office. She previously worked for Fresno County Counsel's Office and currently serves with the Tulare County Counsel. She has over 20 years experience in advising public agencies in California.

Government 101
October 22, 2009

Brown Act Quiz
(please complete before Brown Act portion of training)

True or False?

1. *A meeting as defined in the Brown Act occurs only when some action is taken.*
T F
2. *Board members may poll each other by e-mail on any issues which may come before the board.* **T F**
3. *A telephone conference between two members of a five-member board is a meeting under the Brown Act if they discuss district business.* **T F**
4. *The board may take a vote by secret ballot:*
in open session. T F in closed session. T F
5. *Any person may record an open meeting of the board via audio or video tape recordings.* **T F**
6. *A member of the public may address the board at a regular meeting on any item of interest to the public provided the matter is within the jurisdiction of the board.*
T F
7. *The board may limit the amount of time members of the public are allowed to speak on matters of public interest.* **T F**
8. *The board is not required to announce in open session the items to be discussed in closed session.* **T F**
9. *When considering the discipline of employees, the board must provide the employee 24 hours notice of his/her right to request a public session.* **T F**
10. *In general, reportable action taken in closed session must be reported out in open session at the same meeting.* **T F**
11. *The board may hold its meetings at any location it chooses within the county provided the public is notified, even if the agency is not countywide.* **T F**
12. *A board member may divulge closed session information provided that he/she so advises the board before adjournment.* **T F**

*Understanding Brown Act
Open Meeting Requirements*

Harold Wood
Chief Deputy County Counsel

Barb Grunwald
Deputy County Counsel

Gary de Malignon
Chief Deputy County Counsel (Retired)



The Brown Act What?

Establishes the procedural framework for members of local governmental decision-making bodies to openly meet, debate, and act.

Provides the means for the public to be informed about the views, discussions and actions of its locally elected and appointed government representatives.

