

RESOURCE LIST FOR CITIZENS COMPLYING WITH AND MONITORING OPEN MEETING LAWS

The Stanislaus County Law Library is a public library operating under the Business and Professions Code §6300 et seq. The library provides free access to legal information for the judiciary, members of the State Bar, public officials, and to all residents of the county for the purpose of education and research.

- California Public Records Act, Government Code §6250
- Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act, Government Code §11120
- Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), Government Code §54950

Web sources:

California State laws and bills: www.leginfo.ca.gov

California State Attorney General: www.ag.ca.gov – click on Open Government

Stanislaus County Code: www.co.stanislaus.ca.us - click on the Board of Supervisors link and you will be directed to the code

California First Amendment Coalition: www.cfac.org - a non-profit public benefit corporation promoting and defending the people's right to know

Municipal Codes online:

Ceres: www.ci.ceres.ca.us/204.html

Hughson: www.hughson.org (click on Hughson Municipal Code)

Modesto: <http://www.ci.modesto.ca.us/> (type municipal code in the search box)

Newman: www.cityofnewman.com (click on city code)

Oakdale: www.ci.oakdale.ca.us (click on informational links, then Oakdale municipal code)

Patterson: www.ci.patterson.ca.us (click on Patterson Municipal Code)

Riverbank: <http://www.riverbank.org/CityCouncil/default.aspx>

Turlock: www.ci.turlock.ca.us/government/municipalcode/

Waterford: not online

Print sources (available at the Law Library):

The Brown Act: Open Meetings for Local Legislative Bodies. California Attorney General's Office. 2003. Provides text and analysis of the Act. It is intended to assist local legislative bodies in complying with California's open meeting laws and to assist those who monitor the performance of legislative bodies.

The Calaware Guide to Open Meetings in California. Terry Franke, Californians Aware, 2006. Provides in depth look at text and interpretation of the Brown Act and the text interpretation of all other California open meetings laws including the Bagley-Keene Act.

California Journalist's Legal Notebook; How to Keep Open Meetings Open and Public Meetings Public. Terry Franke. California First Amendment Coalition. 1998. Provides general orientation on common questions journalists have about the legal dimensions of their job.

Open Meeting Laws. Ann Taylor Schwing. Fathom Publishing Co. 2d edition, 2000. Historical overview and statutory construction of open public meetings, including the mechanics of meetings.

Paper Trails: A Guide to Public Records in California. Stephen Levine and Barbara T. Newcombe. Center for Investigative Reporting and the California Newspaper Publishers Assn. 2nd edition, 1996. A guide to where to get started finding critical California government information.

Recordkeeping Requirements. Donald S. Skupsky, JD, CRM. Information Requirements Clearinghouse. 1994. Discusses the concerns of regarding business records if they are not properly created, maintained, or destroyed. It also provides detailed information on how to solve record problems.

Records Retention Procedures. Donald Skupsky, JD, CRM. Information Requirements Clearinghouse. 1994. Addresses general record retention procedures and encourages complete and accurate legal research and consistent accurate assignment of retention periods.

The Sourcebook to Public Record Information. BRB Publications Inc. 4th edition, 2002. Reveals where records are kept, outlines the access requirements, and gives searching hints.

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