

to prevent the person with whom the local government is negotiating from sitting in on the session at which the negotiating terms are developed. (*Kleitman v. Superior Court* (1999) 74 Cal.App.4th 324, 331; see also *Shapiro v. San Diego City Council* (2002) 96 Cal.App.4th 904.)

The closed session, however, must be preceded by an open session in which the body identifies the real property in question, the individual who will act as its negotiator, and the persons with whom its negotiator may negotiate. In 73 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 1, 5 (1990), this office concluded that a district interested in purchasing property could not identify 700 prospective parcels, but must specifically identify the actual parcels subject to negotiation so that the public would have the opportunity to voice any objection to the proposed transaction. Eminent domain proceedings are not subject to section 54956.8, and a body may hold closed sessions to discuss eminent domain proceedings with its attorney under the pending litigation exception.

Depending on the circumstances, the agency may designate a member of the body, a staff person, the agency's attorney or another person to serve as its negotiator.

#### **D. Labor Negotiations Exception**

The Act provides for closed sessions to enable a legislative body to meet with its negotiator concerning discussions with employee organizations and unrepresented employees regarding salaries and fringe benefits. (§ 54957.6(a).) However, prior to the closed session, the body must meet in open session and identify its negotiators. The purpose of the closed session is to permit the body to review its position and instruct its negotiator concerning the conduct of labor negotiations with current or prospective employees. During the closed session, the legislative body may approve an agreement concluding labor negotiations with its represented employees. (See § 54957.1(a)(6).) However, closed sessions with the negotiator may not include final action on the proposed compensation of one or more unrepresented employees.

The scope of the closed session held with the negotiator pursuant to section 54957.6 is limited to issues concerning salaries, salary schedules, and compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits. In addition, for represented employees, the legislative body also may grant authority to its negotiator concerning any other matter within the statutorily-provided scope of representation. Closed session discussions under the labor negotiations exception may include consideration of an agency's available funds and funding priorities, so long as such discussions relate to providing instructions to the local agency's designated negotiator. It should be emphasized that the labor negotiations exception applies only to actual bona fide labor negotiations, and a closed session may not be conducted where a legislative body merely wishes to set the salary of an employee.

The body may appoint from its membership one or more members constituting less than a quorum, to act as its negotiator, with whom it may meet and confer in closed session under the provisions of section 54957.6. (57 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 209, 212 (1974).) However, if a body decides to conduct its meet-and-confer sessions itself without using a negotiator, the legislative body may not meet in closed session to review and decide upon its bargaining position. (57 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 209, 212 (1974).) In addition, the legislative body as a whole may meet in closed session with a state conciliator who has intervened in the negotiations. (§ 54957.6(a); see also, 51 Ops.Cal.Atty.Gen. 201 (1968).)

For purposes of section 54957.6, the term “employee” not only refers to rank and file, but also includes an officer or an independent contractor who functions as an officer or employee. The term “employee” does not include any elected official, member of a legislative body, or other independent contractors. (§ 54957.6(b).)

#### **E. Public Security Exception**

The Act permits local agencies to meet in closed session with the Attorney General, district attorney, agency counsel, sheriff, or chief of police or their deputies, or a security consultant or a security operations manager on matters posing a threat to the security of public buildings, a threat to the security of essential public services, including water, drinking water, wastewater treatment, natural gas service, and electric service, or a threat to the public’s right of access to public services or public facilities. (§ 54957.)

#### **F. License Application Exception**

The Act establishes special provisions for the consideration of license applications by persons with criminal records. (§ 54956.7.)

### **3. Minute Book**

The Act provides for the discretionary keeping of a minute book with respect to closed sessions. (§ 54957.2.) The minute book is confidential and shall be available only to members of the legislative body or to a court in connection with litigation involving an alleged violation of the Act during a closed session. (§ 54957.2.) Neither the minute book nor the information which it memorializes may be released by the body’s members. (Cal.Atty.Gen., Indexed Letter, No. IL 76-201 (October 20, 1976).) However, the minutes of an improper closed session are not confidential. (*Register Div. of Freedom Newspapers, Inc. v. County of Orange* (1984) 158 Cal.App.3d 893, 907-908.)