Information from the Brown Act about recording meetings

A final set of rules effective to increase public participation in open meetings allows the preservation of an independent record by citizens using their own equipment, or a transmission of the proceeding to a much wider audience through broadcast. In either case, such mechanisms can be curtailed only by a specific and “reasonable” finding that the tools or procedures employed are persistently and physically conflicting with the conduct of the meeting, If the body makes its own recording, citizens may be charged a fee equivalent to duplication costs if they desire a copy, but may not be charged simply to listen to or view the tape. The tape may be erased or destroyed a month after the meeting if no request under the Public Records Act is pending.

Government Code § 54953.5 (a) Any person attending an open and public meeting of a legislative body of a local agency shall have the right to record the proceedings with an audio or video tape recorder or a still or motion picture camera in the absence of a reasonable finding by the legislative body of the local agency that the recording cannot continue without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that constitutes, or would constitute, a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

(b) Any tape or film record of an open and public meeting made for whatever purpose by or at the direction of the local agency shall be subject to inspection pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1), but, notwithstanding Section 34090, may be erased or destroyed 30 days after the taping or recording. Any inspection of a video or tape recording shall be provided without charge on a tape recorder made available by the local agency.

Government Code § 54953.6. No legislative body shall prohibit or otherwise restrict the broadcast of its proceedings in the absence of a reasonable finding that the broadcast cannot be accomplished without noise, illumination, or obstruction of view that would constitute a persistent disruption of the proceedings.