



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Betsy Dirks
District No. 1

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Vice Chair

Peter Hernandez
District No. 3
Chair

Bob Tiffany
District No. 4

Bea Gonzales
District No. 5

Item Number: 2.7

MEETING DATE: 09/13/2022

DEPARTMENT: COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Vanessa Delgado

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Ray Espinosa

SUBJECT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE - R. ESPINOSA

Adopt proposed resolution authorizing teleconferencing options for meetings of the Board of Supervisors for the period of September 13, 2022 through October 13, 2022, pursuant to AB 361.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 119

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-107

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, amending his prior Executive Order N-29-20 and waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act relating to teleconferences/remote meetings by local agency legislative bodies. The Executive Order waived, among other things, the provisions of the Brown Act that otherwise required the physical presence of members of local agency legislative bodies or other personnel in a particular location as a condition of participation or as a quorum for a public meeting. These modifications remained in effect through September 30, 2021.

On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361, a bill that codifies certain teleconference procedures that local agencies have adopted in response to the Governor's Brown Act-related Executive Orders. Specifically, AB 361 allows a local agency to continue to use teleconferencing under the same basic rules as provided in the Executive Orders under certain prescribed circumstances or when certain findings have been made and adopted by the local agency legislative body.

When the state of emergency lasts longer than 30 days, as is the case presently, the legislative body must make findings every 30 days to continue using the bill's exemption to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules. AB 361 mandates that the legislative body must find that there is a continuing need for teleconferencing due to dangers posed by the ongoing state of emergency. This means that local agencies will have to put an item on the public meeting agenda at least every thirty days to make findings regarding the circumstances of the emergency and to vote to continue relying upon the law's teleconference provisions.

In order to continue to meet under those modified rules after 30 days, the Board will again need to reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and again make one of the additional findings required by AB 361.

Reducing the circumstances under which people come into close contact remains a vital component of the County's COVID-19 response strategy. Local agency public meetings are an essential government function and the last 18 months have proven that the hybrid format protects public access while minimizing exposure to COVID-19.

We therefore recommend that the Board adopt findings that conducting in-person meetings at the present time would present an imminent risk to the health and safety of attendees. A resolution to that effect and directing staff to return each meeting (ensuring that a resolution is adopted within the 30 day requirement) providing the Board the opportunity to reconsider such findings, is included herewith. If the Board adopts the proposed resolution, then it may continue to meet under the modified Brown Act teleconference rules of AB 361 through October 13, 2022.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

Yes

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

N/A

CONTRACT AND RFP HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

STATE IF THIS IS A NEW CONTRACT/ HOW MANY PAST AMENDED CONTRACTS/ OR N/A:

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

Yes

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

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ATTACHMENTS:

[Resolution re Teleconferencing](#)