



Lou Ann Teixeira
 Executive Officer

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August 10, 2022

**August 10, 2022
 Agenda Item 5**

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
 40 Muir Road, 1st Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

**Adoption of Resolution 2022-05 (AB 361) and Discuss
 Format of Future Commission Meetings**

Dear Members of the Commission:

Since June 2020, Contra Costa LAFCO has conducted its public meetings via Zoom/teleconference, consistent with the Governor’s Executive Orders allowing teleconferencing and AB 361, which authorizes teleconferencing without following the non-emergency teleconferencing rules in the Brown Act. The Commission has adopted a resolution at each LAFCO meeting authorizing LAFCO to conduct teleconference meetings.

In April 2022, the Commission discussed format options for future LAFCO meetings, including virtual/teleconference meetings, in-person meetings, and hybrid meetings (both virtual/teleconference and in-person). The Commission expressed a preference for the hybrid format.

In May, LAFCO staff met with the County Information Technology and Clerk of the Board staff in the Board of Supervisor Chambers. At that time, we were informed that the hybrid format will require Commissioners and LAFCO staff attending in-person meetings in the Board Chambers to bring their own device (i.e., I-Pad, laptop, phone) in order to Zoom/teleconference into the meeting.

At its June 8, 2022, meeting, the Commission approved a resolution authorizing LAFCO to continue conducting teleconference meetings under Government Code section 54953(e). Commissioners indicated that because of the rise in Covid-19 cases dues to variants, the question of whether to continue meeting remotely would be revisited at each meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS: 1) Adopt Resolution No. 2022-05 authorizing LAFCO to conduct teleconference meetings under Government Code §54953(e) and make related findings; and 2) discuss and provide direction regarding LAFCO’s future meeting format.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachment – AB 361 – LAFCO Resolution 2022-05

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-05

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER
GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) (ASSEMBLY BILL 361)**

Recitals

- A. On March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed the existence of a state of emergency in California under the California Emergency Services Act, Government Code (GC) §8550 et seq.
- B. On March 10, 2020, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors found that due to the introduction of COVID-19 in the County, conditions of disaster or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property had arisen, commencing on March 3, 2020. Based on these conditions, pursuant to GC §8630, the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2020/92, proclaiming the existence of a local emergency throughout Contra Costa County.
- C. On March 17, 2020, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in the California Open Meeting law, GC §54950 et seq. (the Brown Act), provided certain requirements were met and followed.
- D. On June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Brown Act and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021.
- E. On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361, which provides that under GC §54953(e), a legislative body subject to the Brown Act may continue to meet using teleconferencing without complying with the non-emergency teleconferencing rules in GC §54953(b)(3) if a proclaimed state of emergency exists and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- F. On July 5, 2022, the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued recommendations for safely holding public meetings that include recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- G. Among the Health Officer's recommendations: (1) on-line meetings (teleconferencing meetings) are strongly recommended as those meetings present the lowest risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19; (2) if a local agency determines to hold in-person meetings, offering the public the opportunity to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option is recommended when possible to give those at higher risk of an/or higher concern about COVID-19 an alternative to participating in person; (3) a written safety protocol should be developed and followed, and it is recommended that the protocol require social distancing – i.e., six feet of separation between attendees – and face masking of all attendees; (4) seating arrangements should allow for staff and members of the public to easily maintain at least six-foot distance from one another at all practicable times.
- H. Because of the prevalence of COVID-19 variants in the Bay Area, case rates and COVID-19 hospitalizations remain high in the County.
- I. In the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) intends to invoke the provisions of AB 361 related to teleconferencing.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission resolves as follows:

1. LAFCO finds that: the state of emergency proclaimed by Governor Newsom on March 4, 2020, is currently in effect; and the Contra Costa County Health Officer has strongly recommended that public meetings be held by teleconferencing as those meetings present the lowest risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.
2. As authorized by AB 361, LAFCO will use teleconferencing for its meetings in accordance with the provisions of GC §54953(e).
3. The Executive Officer is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement the intent and purpose of this resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with GC §54953(e) and all other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on August 10, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

ROB SCHRODER, CHAIR, CONTRA COSTA LAFCO

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of a resolution passed and adopted by this Commission on the date stated above.

Dated: August 10, 2022

Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer