

# RICHARDSON'S BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

## STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of December 12, 2021

**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Steve McGrath, Interim Executive Director  
**Subject:** Return to in-person meetings

### STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that this Board continue to meet virtually until:

the Marin County case rate exhibits a consistent downward trend over,  
the transmissibility of, and vaccine effectiveness against, the Omicron variant is better understood, and  
the likelihood of a return to virtual meetings is greatly reduced.

### SUMMARY:

In September 2021, Governor Newsom signed [AB-361](#). The legislation, which took effect immediately, provides that local government bodies subject to the Brown Act can continue to use video and/or teleconferencing through December 31, 2023 in the manner that Governor Newsom's executive orders authorized during the COVID-19 pandemic. A public entity can use AB 361's provisions under certain conditions, including when state or local officials have recommended social distancing during a proclaimed state of emergency.

In accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Director of Health & Human Services has recommended continued social distancing and wearing of masks to enhance safety at public meetings. At the time of submission of this letter, Marin County's case rate stood at 6.6 per 100,000 residents (27.3 unvaccinated, 3.9 vaccinated), an increase of 0.7 (11.8%) since the Board meeting of 11/4/21.

Additionally, since the Board meeting of 11/4/21, the Omicron variant has been identified by the World Health Organization and classified as a Variant of Concern with increased likelihood of transmissibility. As of this writing, the first U.S. case has been confirmed in San Francisco, and is present in 20 other countries.

Staff are planning that regular Board of Director meetings may become onsite in the near future.

Accordingly, staff has researched the practices of other public agencies in Marin County:

ITEM 5.a

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County of Marin: in person meetings, with the following caveat:

“Attendance will be limited to 50 percent of room capacity (no more than 100 persons) and all in-person attendees are required to wear face coverings and socially distance as recommended by public health authorities.

All attendees are encouraged to be fully vaccinated.”

Town of Tiburon: virtual meetings; discussion on 12/14/21 about the possibility of returning to in person meetings.

City of Belvedere: virtual meetings

City of Mill Valley: in person meetings

City of San Rafael: virtual meetings

City of Sausalito: virtual meetings

City of Novato: virtual meetings

The proposed resolution would provide the RBRA Board of Directors with the option, but not the requirement, to continue to use video- and/or teleconferencing when appropriate for the next thirty days and while the state proclamation of emergency remains in place.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

None at this time.