

RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY

RESOLUTION NUMBER 15-22

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY REGARDING TELE/VIDEO-CONFERENCE MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Richardson Bay Regional Agency (the “RBRA”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the RBRA’s legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the RBRA’s legislative body conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to make additional resources available, formalize emergency actions already underway across multiple state agencies and departments, and help the State prepare for a broader spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act in order to allow local legislative bodies to conduct meetings electronically without a physical meeting place; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Executive Order N-29-20, staff set up Zoom teleconference meetings for all RBRA Board of Directors meetings; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which specified that Executive Order N-29-20 would remain in effect through September 30, 2021, at which point it would expire; and

WHEREAS, since the issuance of Executive Order N-08-21, both the Delta and Omicron variants have emerged, causing a spike in COVID-19 cases throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's proclaimed State of Emergency remains in effect, and State and

local officials, including the Marin County Director of Health and Human Services, the California Department of Public Health, and the Department of Industrial Relations, have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 into law, as urgency legislation that went into effect on October 1, 2021, amending Government Code Section 54953 of the Brown Act to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet remotely during a proclaimed state of emergency, provided certain conditions are met and certain findings are made; and

WHEREAS, because of the prevalence of cases of the Omicron and Delta variants, the RBRA is concerned about the health and safety of attendees, the RBRA's Board of Directors desires to take the actions necessary to comply with AB 361 and to continue to hold its Board and committee meetings remotely.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE RICHARDSON BAY REGIONAL AGENCY BOARD OF DIRECTORS RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency, and finds that:
 - a. The factors triggering the State of Emergency continue to directly impact the ability of the members of the Board of Directors and RBRA staff, and members of the public to meet safely in person; and
 - b. State and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.
2. RBRA Board of Directors meetings will continue to be conducted remotely for the next 30 days in compliance with AB 361 and Government Code Section 54953(e)(2), in order to ensure the health and safety of the public while providing access to public meetings.
3. The Board of Directors will reconsider the circumstances of the State of Emergency and revisit the need to conduct meetings remotely within 30 days of the adoption of this Resolution.

REGULARLY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 11th day of August, 2022.

Votes:

CERTIFICATION:

Stephanie Moulton-Peters - Board Chair

Karen Prows – Board Clerk