

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 30, 2021
To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair
Subject: Technical Advisory Committee - Meetings by Teleconference.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt “Resolution Finding Proclaimed State of Emergency and that Meeting in Person Would Present Imminent Risks to the Health or Safety of Attendees; and Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies”

Over the past eighteen months, Water Advisory Committee (WAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings have been held virtually to protect attendees, including members of public, and WAC/TAC members, from potential exposure to the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (“COVID-19”). Until September 30, 2021, these virtual meetings were authorized by Executive Order N-29-20, which suspended certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act (“Brown Act”). On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 361 (2021) (“AB 361”) amending the Brown Act to allow local legislative bodies to continue to conduct meetings virtually under specified conditions and pursuant to special rules on notice, attendance, and other matters. AB 361 took full effect on October 1, 2021.

The current circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic meet the criteria for Section 54953 of the Brown Act, as amended by AB 361. The Governor’s March 4, 2021 declaration of a State of Emergency remains in effect, and state and local officials recommend physical distancing as a layer of protection against transmission of COVID-19. Further, the current circumstances would support a determination by the WAC and/or TAC that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees.

If adopted, the Resolution will allow the TAC to meet virtually for 30 days, after which it will need to reconsider its findings and re-confirm the need to hold virtual meetings. This reconsideration and confirmation will need to occur every thirty days until the TAC determines it is safe to meet in person. Similar actions will need to be taken by the WAC regarding its remote meetings.

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