

MEMORANDUM

To: Technical Advisory Committee
From: Drew McIntyre, TAC Chair
Subject: Technical Advisory Committee – Continue to Authorize Meetings by Teleconference.

December 1, 2021

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 Re-Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies”.

Since April 2020, 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, 2020 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, on September 22, 2021 the Sonoma County Department of Health Services issued recommendations for holding public meetings and strongly recommended continuation of online (teleconference) meetings as they provide the lowest risk of COVID-19 transmission.

At the October 4, 2021 TAC meeting and November 1 WAC/TAC meeting, similar resolutions were unanimously approved. If adopted, the Resolution will allow the TAC to meet virtually for 30 days.

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 Re- Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference of Legislative Bodies”.