
**SAN JOAQUIN
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

LAFCo

44 N. SAN JOAQUIN STREET SUITE 374 STOCKTON, CA 95202

**Local Agency Formation Commission Notice and Call of a Special Meeting Agenda
Thursday, January 5, 2023 9:00 A.M.**

In accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-33-20, and for the period in which the Order remains in effect, the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission's office will be closed to the public.

To accommodate the public during this period of time that the Board's Chambers are closed to the public, the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission has arranged for Commission Members and members of the public to observe and address the meeting virtually.

TO ATTEND:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87617979878?pwd=bkRYTFN2YnlRbzZlenZvYUpmVEJLdz09>

Meeting ID: 876 1797 9878

Passcode: 980521

Dial by phone 669 900 6833 US

Note: If you don't have access to a smart device or a computer with a webcam & a mic, you can dial in using the teleconference number and meeting ID above.

Attention Callers: Please mute the call unless speaking.

*****To be recognized to speak, please use the "raise hand" or chat feature in Zoom.*****

We have also provided a call-in number, as identified on this Agenda, and encourage you to attend by telephone.

*****To be recognized to speak, press *9 to signal the moderator.*****

Download Agenda Packet and Materials at: www.sjgov.org/commission/lafco

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Call to Order

Announce Date and Time of Meeting for the Record

Roll Call

CONSENT ITEMS

1. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING MEETINGS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION UNDER AB 361 USING TELECONFERENCE DURING A PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY

(Action by All Members)

Consider Resolution to conduct meetings of the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code 54953 as amended by Assembly Bill 361 for the period January 5, 2023 to February 4, 2023.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

2. Persons wishing to address the Commission on matters not otherwise on the agenda

EXECUTIVE COMMENTS

3. Comments from the Executive Officer

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

4. Comments, Reports, or Questions from the LAFCO Commissioners

ADJOURNMENT

LAFCo

44 NORTH SAN JOAQUIN STREET, SUITE 374 STOCKTON, CA 95202

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

DATE: January 5, 2023

FROM: Rod Attebery, General Counsel

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Meetings of the San Joaquin Agency Formation Commission Under AB 361 Using Teleconference During a Proclaimed State of Emergency

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission approve the attached LAFCo resolution 1505 authorizing Commission to conduct meeting of the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code 45942 as amended by AB 361 for the period of January 5, 2023 to February 7, 2023.

Background

On September 16, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361 ("AB 361") into law, amending the Ralph M. Brown Act (Gov. Code, § 54950 *et seq.*) (the "Brown Act"). AB 361 codified certain modified requirements for teleconference meetings held by public agencies, similar to those previously authorized and extended by executive order during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

AB 361 was introduced to provide a longer-term solution for teleconference meetings during states of emergency, effective until January 1, 2024. AB 361 amends Section 54953 of the Government Code to allow the legislative body of a local agency to meet remotely without complying with the normal teleconference rules for agenda posting, physical location access, or quorum rules. To do so, one of three scenarios must exist, all of which require that the Governor has proclaimed a State of Emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8625:

- A. State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing;
- B. The agency is holding a meeting for the purpose of determining whether meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
- C. The agency is holding a meeting and has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

(Gov. Code, § 54953(e)(1).)

An agency and any committee that is required to comply with the Brown Act, that holds a meeting under either of the three scenarios must continue to post its agenda in the time required by the Brown Act, and ensure that the public is able to address the agency or committee directly through teleconference means. (*Id.* at subd. (e)(2). If a disruption prevents the agency or committee from broadcasting the meeting or receiving public comments in real time, the agency or committee cannot take further action until those functions are restored; any actions taken during such a disruption are subject to legal challenge. (*Id.*)

Assuming the State of Emergency remains in effect, if the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCo” or the “Commission”) or LAFCo committees wish to continue meeting under the modified rules, then the Commission, and each committee that wants to continue to meet using teleconference must each individually adopt an initial resolution within 30 days of the first teleconference meeting, and then must adopt an extension resolution at least every 30 days thereafter. (*Id.* at subd. (e)(3).) The resolutions must contain findings stating that the Commission or committee has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency and either (1) the State of Emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person; or (2) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. (*Id.*)

Where consecutive regular meetings fall outside the 30-day time frame, the Commission or committee should hold a special “AB 361” remote meeting within the 30-day window simply to reauthorize the AB 361 exceptions. Without the AB 361 exceptions, the Commission or committee will be required to return to normal in-person meetings or provide public access at each remote location under the traditional teleconference rules, as of October 1, 2021. Therefore, if the AB 361 authorization lapses and the Commission or a committee wishes to hold a teleconference meeting, it will be required to post agendas and provide public access at each remote location, identify those locations in the agenda, and maintain a quorum of the Commission within agency boundaries. If a meeting is not held in conformity with AB 361, commissioners may not teleconference from their residences or other locations, which are not open and accessible to the public.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

Attachment: Resolution 1505

Resolution No. 1505

**BEFORE THE SAN JOAQUIN LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
AUTHORIZING COMMISSION TO CONDUCT MEETINGS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION USING TELECONFERENCING
PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE 54953 AS AMENDED BY AB 361 FOR THE
PERIOD JANUARY 5, 2023 TO FEBRUARY 7, 2023**

WHEREAS, the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission (“LAFCo”) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of LAFCo’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 LAFCo’s legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), as amended by AB 361 (2021), 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, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Cal-OSHA adopted emergency regulations (Section 3205) imposing requirements on California employers, including measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, an Order of the San Joaquin County Public Health Officer acknowledges that close contact to other persons increases the risk of transmission of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, currently the dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, therefore, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Joaquin Local Agency Formation Commission approves

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Finding of Imminent Risk to Health or Safety of Attendees. LAFCo does hereby find that the current dominant strain of COVID-19 in the country, is more transmissible than prior variants of the virus, may cause more severe illness, and that even fully vaccinated individuals can spread the virus to others resulting in rapid and alarming rates of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons, thereby presenting an imminent risk to health and/or safety to LAFCo's employees and attendees of the Commission's public meetings; and

Section 3. Teleconference Meetings. LAFCo does hereby determine as a result of the State of Emergency proclaimed by the Governor, and the recommended measures to promote social distancing made by State and local officials that the Commission may conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e)(1)(A) and (B) of section 54953, and shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

Section 4. Direction to Staff. The Executive Officer and LAFCo staff are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 5th day of January 2023, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

DAVID BREITENBUCHER, Chairman
San Joaquin Local Agency
Formation Commission