

**ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS
EXECUTIVE BOARD**

RESOLUTION NO. 9-2023

ABSTRACT

This resolution makes findings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 to continue virtual public meetings for the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), its related entities and committees during the COVID-19 State of Emergency.

Further discussion of this subject is contained in the ABAG Executive Board Summary Sheet dated February 16, 2023.

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FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 TO CONTINUE VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS, WITH ITS RELATED ENTITIES AND COMMITTEES, DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of the State of California declared a state of emergency, as defined under the California Emergency Services Act, due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the State of Emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, beginning in March 2020, the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 suspended Brown Act requirements related to teleconferencing during the COVID-19 pandemic provided that notice, accessibility, and other requirements were met, and the public was allowed to observe and address the legislative body at the meeting; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order N-08-21 extended the previous order until September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG or Association) and its related entities and committees have conducted their meetings virtually, as authorized by the Executive Order, since March 17, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed into law Assembly Bill 361, an urgency measure effective upon adoption, that provides flexibility to government bodies, allowing them to meet virtually without conforming to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules if: (i) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; (ii) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or (iii) the legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Public Health Department continues to recommend and/or require measures to promote social distancing in combination with other safety precautions when activities occur in shared indoor spaces to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

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WHEREAS, recently, multiple COVID-19 variants have surged in the United States and are believed by medical experts to be more contagious than previous variants, and data has shown these variants to have increased transmissibility even among some vaccinated people; and

WHEREAS, due to uncertainty and concerns about recent COVID-19 variants and current conditions, many workplaces that had announced a return to regular in-person operations have pushed back the full return date; and

WHEREAS, virtual meetings have not diminished the public's ability to observe and participate and have expanded opportunities to do so for some communities; and

WHEREAS, given the heightened risks of the predominant variant of COVID-19 in the community, holding meetings with all members of the legislative body, staff, and the public in attendance in person in a shared indoor meeting space would pose an unnecessary and immediate risk to the attendees.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments hereby determines that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person presents imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and be it further

RESOLVED, that in accordance with Assembly Bill 361, based on the findings and determinations herein, meetings of ABAG, its related entities and its committees will be held virtually, with Brown Act teleconferencing rules suspended; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be effective upon adoption and remain in effect for 30 days in accordance with Assembly Bill 361.

The foregoing was adopted by the Executive Board this 16th day of February, 2023.

Jesse Arreguin
President

Certification of Executive Board Approval

I, the undersigned, the appointed and qualified Clerk of the Board of the Association of Bay Area Governments (Association), do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Executive Board of the Association at a duly called and noticed meeting held in San Francisco, California, and at other remote locations, on the 16th day of February, 2023.

Frederick Castro
Clerk of the Board