

## Association of Bay Area Governments

### Executive Board

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April 16, 2020

Agenda Item 4.b.

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#### Executive Board Practice during Declared Emergencies

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**Subject:** Protocol Formalizing ABAG Executive Board Practice During Declared Emergencies

**Background:** The emergent and changing environment surrounding the Coronavirus has raised numerous questions for the greater Bay Area community, including employers and their staffs. For public agencies like ABAG, it is important to consider as well how the business of serving the public is maintained.

ABAG seeks to conduct its on-going business in a consistent and transparent fashion. That said, given the fluid nature of public health driven responses to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) ABAG needs to be prepared for extraordinary circumstances in an emergency situation—this one and others that may present themselves in the future.

ABAG has long practiced the option of allowing members of its Executive Board and its related committees to participate remotely, as long as the provisions of the Brown Act are adhered to. How, that practice has not been formalized in writing, and with many inquiries coming forward regarding how official business will be conducted within the larger efforts to manage COVID-19 related impacts, it is timely and prudent to do so now. In addition, Governor Newsome released on March 12, 2020 a comprehensive Executive Order for purposes of “Further Enhancing State and Local Government’s Ability to Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic”. Staff is evaluating the elements of that Executive Order now.

ABAG Resolution No. 09-2020 (Attachment) outlines the proposed protocol to memorialize current practice, and importantly to further acknowledge the ABAG Executive Board’s ability to adjust that practice to align with emergency circumstances as we are currently experiencing, and others in the future. This will provide more surety to Executive Board members, our staff, and our stakeholders with respect to Board business practice under a declared emergency.

**Issues:** None

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**Recommended Action:** The Executive Board is requested to adopt Resolution No. 09-2020.

**Attachments:** Resolution No. 09-2020

**Reviewed:**



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Therese W. McMillan