



**MEMORANDUM  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE  
ADMINISTRATION**  
County of Placer

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors DATE: July 12, 2022  
FROM: Jane Christenson, Acting County Executive Officer  
SUBJECT: Adopt Findings to Continue Authorization of Teleconference Attendance by  
Members of County Committees and Commissions Pursuant to Government  
Code Section 54953.

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**ACTION REQUESTED:**

Adopt findings to continue authorization of teleconference attendance for members of County committees and commissions pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 as codified in Government Code section 54953.

**BACKGROUND:**

On January 25 2022 your Board adopted findings to authorize teleconference attendance by members of County committees and commissions. Government Code section 54953 requires the Board to adopt these findings every thirty (30) days thereafter to authorize continued teleconferencing by committee or commission members. Your Board adopted these findings again on February 22, March 22, April 19, May 24, and June 21, 2022.

The Ralph M. Brown Act (“Brown Act”) governs the noticing, agendas, and meetings of a “legislative body”. The Brown Act has always had provisions to allow for members of a legislative body to teleconference (phone or video) into a meeting from a remote location, but it is seldom used due to the requirements to post the teleconference location and make accommodations for public participation. Assembly Bill 361 amended portions of the Brown Act to allow the use of teleconferencing attendance by members of a legislative body without the teleconference posting and public accommodation requirements. To authorize the same AB 361, as codified in Government Code section 54953, requires the legislative body make certain findings, which are valid for thirty (30) days. To continue beyond the initial thirty (30) days, the legislative body must adopt the findings every thirty (30) days thereafter. This process is authorized until the State’s March 4, 2020 Proclamation of Emergency is terminated or until January 1, 2024, whichever is sooner.

Staff recommends the Board adopt findings to continue authorizing teleconferencing for all the Board formed committees and commissions. While it appears the Omicron surge has peaked, there is still a good deal of trepidation for volunteer community members of Board committees and commissions, as well as the public to attend meetings in person. Continuing this teleconference authorization by adopting the findings set forth below would allow members of the committee or commission the option to attend virtually without the posting and public accommodation requirements under the Brown Act.

**Action Requested:** Adopt the following findings to continue authorization of teleconference attendance for members of County committees and commissions pursuant to Government Code section 54953:

1. The Governor of the State of California enacted a Proclamation of Emergency on March 4, 2020, pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act and the same remains active (“Proclamation”).
2. The Board of Supervisors only reconsiders the circumstances of the Proclamation for purposes of authorizing members of Board formed committees and commissions the option to attend meetings via teleconferencing as permitted in GC section 54953(e) without compliance with the posting and public accommodation requirements in GC section 54953(b)(3).
3. The state of emergency articulated in the Proclamation continues to directly impact the ability of members of Board appointed committees and commission to meet safely in person. While the County is able to manage protection of its members and the public in County facilities, most of the committees and commissions meet at non-County facilities where there is no central means to manage social distancing or any other protective measures.
4. In making these findings the Board of Supervisors does not endorse or support the Proclamation or take any position on COVID-19. Rather, the Board wishes to provide the option for virtual attendance to members of Board formed committees and commissions during the time the state of emergency exists.
5. If members of a Board formed committee or commission attend virtually, all votes taken on action items shall be by roll call. The chair of such a committee or commission shall halt the meeting should a disruption in the audio or virtual feed occur until such time as the disruption is resolved.
6. No individual Board member or County staff member may authorize teleconference attendance by members of a Board formed committee or commission absent these findings, which must be renewed every thirty (30) days by the Board, or in absence of the same, independent action by each Board formed committee or commission to adopt and renew said findings.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.