

BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

RESOLUTION NO. 2022-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT AUTHORIZING CONTINUED REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD JULY 6 TO AUGUST 5, 2022

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (District) is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Board of Directors, Board Committees, and all other legislative bodies of the District; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of District legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950- 54963, so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, beginning in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic gave rise to significant health risks that made it unduly risky for the District's legislative bodies to hold in-person public meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act authorizes remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, but as of the beginning of the pandemic, it included certain restrictions in Government Code section 54953(b)(3) that made fully remote meetings impractical; and

WHEREAS, in response to this situation, and in order to facilitate remote meetings to promote public health and allow for social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Legislature enacted AB 361 (Rivas), which (among other things) created Government Code section 54953(e); and

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953(e) makes provision 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, the Board of Directors adopted Resolutions on October 6, 2021 and thereafter, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the legislative bodies of the District to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953(b)(3), including (i) that there was and is a proclaimed state of emergency and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, and (ii) that as a result of the state of emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of continuing the use of the provisions found in section 54953(e), the Board of Directors must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists in the District, and the Board of Directors has done so; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 state of emergency remains active and Governor Newsom's COVID-19 Emergency Proclamation of March 4, 2020 remains in effect to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, measures to promote social distancing have been ordered or recommended by state and local public health authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors does hereby find that although the COVID-19 public health emergency has abated sufficiently to allow many members to participate safely in in-person meetings, it continues to present imminent risks to the health or safety of other members, including but not limited to those who may have weakened immune systems, those who may have reasons preventing them from being vaccinated, and those who may live in a household with such persons, and as such, the health emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person;

WHEREAS, state and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors desires to affirm that a state of emergency exists and re-ratify the Governor's proclamation of state of emergency; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting, the Board of Directors does hereby find that the legislative bodies of the District shall continue to conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall continue to 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

WHEREAS, the District is publicizing in its meeting agendas zoom and webcast links and phone numbers for members of the public to participate remotely in meetings of the District's legislative bodies.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BAY AREA AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

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

Section 2. Affirmation that Local Emergency Persists. The Board of Directors hereby finds that the state of emergency related to COVID-19 in the District remains active, that measures to promote social distancing have been ordered or recommended by public health authorities, and that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of members to meet safely in person by presenting imminent risks to the health or safety of some attendees.

Section 3. Re-ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of

State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020. Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The staff and legislative bodies of the District are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including continuing to conduct 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 and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) August 5, 2022, or (ii) such time the Board of Directors adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the legislative bodies of the District may continue to teleconference without compliance with section 54953(b)(3).

The foregoing resolution was duly regularly introduced, passed, and adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District on the motion of DIRECTOR GROOM, seconded by DIRECTOR HUDSON, on the 6th day of JULY 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: MARGARET ABE-KOGA, TERESA BARRETT, JOHN BAUTERS, DAVID CANEPA, CAROLE GROOM, DAVID HAUBERT, LYNDY HOPKINS, DAVID HUDSON, DAVINA HURT, TYRONE JUE, OTTO LEE, SERGIO LOPEZ, KAREN MITCHOFF, ROB RENNIE, KATIE RICE, MARK ROSS, SHAMANN WALTON, STEVE YOUNG.

NOES: NONE.

ABSTAIN: NONE.

ABSENT: PAULINE RUSSO CUTTER, JOHN GIOIA, ERIN HANNIGAN, NATE MILEY, BRAD WAGENKNECHT.

ATTEST:


John J. Bauters
Chair of the Board of Directors


Teresa Barrett
Secretary of the Board of Directors