

RESOLUTION 21-24

RESOLUTION OF THE HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS MAKING FINDINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 TO CONTINUE REMOTE PUBLIC MEETINGS FOR THE HCAOG BOARD AND LEGISLATIVE AND ADVISORY BODIES DURING THE COVID-19 STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, The Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) is committed to preserving and fostering public access and participation in its meetings, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Government Code 54950 - 54963), which makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS A state of emergency was proclaimed by Governor's Executive Order N-33-20 on March 4, 2020, addressing the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, and remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, The Humboldt County Health Officer, declared a local health emergency on March 11, 2020, which is still in effect; and

WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed into law AB 361, an urgency measure, that provides flexibility to government bodies, allowing them to meet virtually without conforming to the Brown Act teleconferencing rules during a declared state of emergency if: (a) State or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, (b) the legislative body is meeting to determine whether, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person presents imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, or (c) the legislative body has determined that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2021 a Universal Masking Order was enacted for Humboldt County by the County Public Health Officer which requires wearing of face coverings in workplaces and public settings; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and Humboldt County Public Health Department continues to recommend measures to promote social or physical distancing in combination with other safety precautions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Humboldt County Association of Governments does hereby make the following findings in accordance with AB 361:

- 1. HCAOG has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and
- 2. HCAOG determines that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person and local officials continue to recommend measure to promote social distancing; and
- 3. In accordance with AB 361, based on the findings and determinations herein, meetings of HCAOG's Board and advisory bodies will be held remotely by virtual means, suspending

Brown Act teleconferencing rules while providing for all feasible means of public participation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Humboldt County Association of Governments, in the County of Humboldt, State of California, this 21st day of October, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES: MEMBERS:

NOES: MEMBERS: ABSENT: MEMBERS: ABSTAIN: MEMBERS:

Attest:

Beth Burks, HCAOG Executive Director

Mike Johnson, HCAOG Chair