

INTER OFFICE MEMO

To: Board of Directors

Date: January 11, 2023

From: Bill Churchill
General Manager

SUBJECT: Declaring that the Board and Its Committee Meetings Will Continue to be Held via Teleconference

SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the General Manager and Legal Counsel recommend the Board adopt a resolution under Assembly Bill 361 (AB 361) (1) making findings that the proclaimed COVID-19 pandemic State of Emergency continues to impact the ability of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority (CCCTA) Board of Directors (Board) and its committees to meet safely in person, and (2) allowing for CCCTA to use the modified teleconferencing requirements under California Government Code Section 54953 for Board and committee meetings for the next 30 days.

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed into law AB 361 amending Government Code Section 54953 to allow local agencies to use teleconferencing for public meetings without requiring teleconference locations to be included on published agendas or accessible to the public, and without requiring a quorum of the members of the legislative body of the agency to participate from locations within the boundaries of the agency's jurisdiction, during proclaimed states of emergencies.

Local agency determinations to meet using the modified teleconferencing rules under AB 361 must be reviewed every 30 days following the first teleconferenced meeting held pursuant to this law, which as an urgency statute, came into effect on October 1. The legislative body must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency and find that they directly impact the ability to meet safely in person. The Governor's State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic remains active and the Contra Costa County Health Officer, the California Department of Public Health, and the Department of Industrial Relations have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing. Compliance with these measures directly impacts the ability of the public to meet safely in person, and CCCTA cannot ensure social distancing recommendations are met in circumstances of in-person public meetings. Furthermore, there is a continuing threat of COVID-19 to the community, and Board and committee meetings have characteristics that give rise to risks to health and safety of meeting participants. Consequently, it is recommended that CCCTA continue to use remote teleconferencing for public meetings as permitted under AB 361 and to reconsider its determination (and make the necessary findings) every 30 days.

On October 21, 2021, the Board adopted its first resolution under AB 361 documenting the findings described above. The Board also was advised to consider similar actions monthly thereafter until conditions change and remote meetings are no longer necessary and appropriate. The proposed action would enable CCCTA's Board and committees to continue to meet remotely for the next 30 days.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: There is no impact on the budget.

ACTION REQUESTED: Adopt resolution declaring that the proclaimed state of emergency for the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the ability of the Board of Directors and its committees to meet safely in person, and directing that virtual Board and committee meetings continue.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-024

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CENTRAL CONTRA COSTA TRANSIT AUTHORITY
STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

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**FINDING THAT THE PROCLAIMED STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO IMPACT THE ABILITY FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS
COMMITTEES TO MEET SAFELY IN PERSON, AND DIRECTING THAT VIRTUAL BOARD AND
COMMITTEE MEETINGS CONTINUE**

WHEREAS, the County of Contra Costa, the Cities of Clayton, Concord, Lafayette, Martinez, Orinda, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon and Walnut Creek, and the Towns of Danville and Moraga (hereinafter "Member Jurisdictions") have formed the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority ("CCCTA"), a joint exercise of powers agency created under California Government Code Section 6500 *et seq.*, for the joint exercise of certain powers to provide coordinated and integrated public transportation services within the area of its Member Jurisdictions ("Service Area");

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic, which declaration remains in effect;

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors subsequently declared a local emergency related to COVID-19, which declaration also remains in effect;

WHEREAS, on March 17 and June 11, 2020, the Governor issued Executive Orders N-29-20 and N-08-21, respectively, suspending certain provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act related to teleconferencing through September 30, 2021 to facilitate legislative bodies conducting public meetings remotely to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 and to protect the health and safety of the public;

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, the Governor signed Assembly Bill (AB) 361 into law, amending Government Code Section 54953, effective immediately, to allow legislative bodies to continue to meet remotely under less restrictive requirements during a proclaimed State of Emergency provided that (1) state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or (2) the legislative bodies determine that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, and (3) the legislative bodies make such findings at least every thirty days during the term of the declared state of emergency;

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2021, pursuant to Resolution 2022-012, and monthly thereafter pursuant to Board action, the CCCTA Board of Directors ("Board") made the requisite findings to allow teleconferencing under AB 361 for 30 days;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed its previous findings and again concludes that there is a continuing threat of COVID-19 to the community, and that Board and committee meetings have characteristics that continue to give rise to risks to health and safety of meeting participants; and

WHEREAS, to help protect against the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, and to protect the health and safety of the public, the Board desires to take the actions necessary to continue to hold its Board and committee meetings remotely as authorized by AB 361.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Central Contra Costa Transit Authority has reconsidered the circumstances of the COVID-19 State of Emergency, and finds and determines that the state of emergency continues to directly impact its ability to meet safely in person;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors directs the General Manager and Clerk to the Board to continue to agendize public meetings of the Board, and all CCCTA committees that are subject to the Brown Act, only as online teleconference meetings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CCCTA will comply with the requirements of Government Code Section 54953(e)(2) when holding Board and committee meetings pursuant to this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution will be in effect for the maximum period of time permitted under AB 361 (30 days), and the Board will reconsider the findings in this Resolution each month and may subsequently reaffirm these findings, pursuant to its consent calendar.

Regularly passed and adopted this 19th day of January, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Amy Worth, Chair, Board of Directors

ATTEST: _____
Lathina Hill, Clerk to the Board