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SUPERVISORS**

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

August 18, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Brown Act – Executive Order

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in order to thank you for the decision to extend the Executive Order N-29-20, which provides flexibility to state and local agencies and boards to conduct their business through virtual public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic. This order gives agencies the ability to carry out their work while keeping decision-makers, staff and the general public safe. Given the recent rise in case rates and spread of the Delta variant, we are hoping that this order will be extended through the end of the calendar year.

Additionally, the County understands that this Executive Order will eventually be terminated, therefore we would like to ask you to stay engaged with local government to discuss a statutory fix to allow board and appointed commission members to continue to operate remotely while removing the requirement to post agendas at private teleconference locations as well as removing the requirement to post the teleconference location from where a board or appointed commission member will be participating from.

While the County welcomes the opportunity to return to in-person public meetings and events, the County believes that local government should be able to carry forward the benefits resulting from the use of modern technology during the pandemic. Allowing flexibility for local governments to conduct business remotely would allow for immunocompromised individuals to continue to work safely, while at the same time allow for local government to provide more accessibility to underserved communities.

The County has dramatically shifted the way they conduct their public business due to COVID-19 in order to maintain the health and safety of staff and the public. Technology has allowed local governments to remain efficient and accessible in the midst of a global pandemic, therefore local governments need to remain proactive and use modern technology not only in day-to-day business, but to improve the diversity of government and our appointed commissions all while reducing our carbon footprint.

The Board of Supervisors adopted a 2021 Legislative Platform which includes the Efficient Service Delivery and Operations Principle that states that the County will strive to balance the diversity of needs

countywide and support efforts to streamline regulatory processes and promote operational enhancements relevant to County departments' missions and core services.

If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Jasmine McGinty at 805-568-3108 or jmcginty@countyofsb.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Cliff Berg
Governmental Advocates, Inc.

cc: Jim DeBoo, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Ana Matosantos, Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor
Ronda Paschal, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of the Governor
The Honorable Senator Monique Limon, 19th Senate District
The Honorable Assemblymember Steve Bennett, 37th Assembly District
The Honorable Assemblymember Jordan Cunningham, 35th Assembly District
The Honorable Senator Mike McGuire, Chair, Senate Governance and Finance Committee
The Honorable Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair, Assembly Local Government Committee
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Graham Knaus, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties
Geoffrey Neill, Principal Policy and Fiscal Analyst, CSAC