



Memorandum

COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE: October 4, 2021

TO: Legislative Program Committee

FROM: Jasmine McGinty, Legislative Coordinator

SUBJECT: Receive and file an update that the State and County remain under a proclaimed state of emergency related to COVID-19 and about Public Health's Recommendation issued September 28, 2021 regarding social distancing (Agenda Item 01: Health Officials AB 361 Social Distance Recommendation) and provide direction to staff about the location of the next meeting.

Introduction

On June 11, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which among other things sets a date of October 1, 2021 for public agencies to transition back to public meetings held in full compliance with the Brown Act, including how remote participation is conducted. The California State Legislature recently passed, and the Governor signed, Assembly Bill 361, which amends the Government Code to allow Brown Act bodies to continue to meet remotely if certain elements are met and the body takes certain actions as discussed below. AB 361 took effect immediately and applies to all Brown Act boards, committees, and commissions within the County.

Discussion

In response to the passage of AB 361, which allows Brown Act bodies to continue to meet remotely if certain requirements are met and the body makes certain findings, the Santa Barbara County Health Officer issued a [recommendation](#) on social distancing on September 28, 2021. The recommendation notes that utilizing teleconferencing options for public meetings is an effective and recommended social distancing measure to facilitate participation in public affairs and encourages participants to protect themselves and others from the COVID-19 disease. The recommendation satisfies the requirement of the Brown Act which allows local legislative bodies in the County to use certain available teleconferencing in the Brown Act.

Should the Legislative Program Committee decide to resume in person meetings after the October 4, 2021 meeting, no further action is necessary and the November 1, 2021 meeting will be updated to reflect the meeting location and all the means by which the public can participate. If the LPC wishes to continue to meet remotely, the committee must pass an agenda item every 30 days, that considers the COVID-19 state of emergency and also considers state and local officials health recommendations on social distancing.

Recommended Action

- 1) Receive and file an update that the State and County remain under a proclaimed state of emergency related to COVID-19 and about Public Health's Recommendation issued September 28, 2021 regarding social distancing;
- 2) Provide direction to staff about the location of the next meeting (resuming in person meetings or continue teleconferencing meetings).