



COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: 2/7/2023

File #: 23-34

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Clerk of the Board

Agenda Section: Consent

SUBJECT:

Board of Supervisors Teleconferencing Meetings and AB 361: Continuation of Emergency

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Find that the Board has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency that continues to exist, and the current Covid-19 public health emergency related to in-person meetings continues to present an imminent risk to health and safety of attendees.
2. Authorize the Chair to sign the resolution re-authorizing remote teleconference meetings for the period of February 7, 2023 through March 7, 2023..

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

General Fund (1100)

DISCUSSION:

Executive Order (N-08-21) authorizing waiver of certain teleconferencing requirements under the Brown Act expired on Sept. 30, 2021. AB 361 signed by Governor Newsom on Sept. 15, 2021 allows teleconferencing to continue without certain existing requirements, such as public access to all teleconference locations through the end of 2023. In order to utilize these legislative provisions the Board of Supervisors is required to make findings that in-person meetings present a risk to the health and safety of meeting attendees. These findings regarding risk to health and safety need to be reconsidered every 30 days to determine if the emergency still exists.

As your Board is aware, local hospitals continue to be extremely taxed and have been struggling under intense pressure of taking care of large numbers of COVID-19 patients and the virus continues to circulate widely in the community. At this time, the Centers for Disease Control continues to recommend social distancing of 6 feet and avoiding crowds. COVID-19 remains an imminent risk to the community, and the Board continues to find that the current COVID-19 public health emergency related to in-person meetings continues to present an imminent risk to health and safety of attendees and should be extended an additional 30 days or until such time that the COVID-19 public health emergency no longer exists.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Costs for teleconferencing equipment has already been expended, and annual subscription costs have been included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget for fund 1100, budget unit 101 - Board of Supervisors/Clerk of the Board. Staff are preparing for hybrid meetings (in-person, on-line and/or teleconference). It is likely that additional costs and equipment will be needed. Staff will return to your Board if a supplemental budget is needed.

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

This action supports your Board's Strategic Framework by creating opportunities for improved safety and health and by protecting vulnerable populations.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Resolution AB 361
- B. Resolution Re-authorizing Remote Teleconferencing Meetings

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No.: N/A

Meeting of: N/A

File No.: N/A