



Eastern Sierra Council of Governments (ESCOG) Joint Powers Authority Agenda

STAFF REPORT

To: ESCOG Joint Powers Authority

From: Grace Chuchla, ESCOG Counsel

Subject: Consideration of a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361

Meeting date: October 7, 2022

Prepared on: October 2, 2022

Attachments: A) Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments Regarding the Need for Continued Virtual Meetings to Protect Public Health

BACKGROUND/HISTORY:

Since March 2020, legislative bodies in California have been permitted to meet virtually without following certain requirements of the Brown Act due to an executive order from Governor Newsom. That executive order expires on September 30, 2021, and in its place, the Governor has signed AB 361, which modifies the Brown Act in a manner to permit continued virtual meetings in certain circumstances.

During the special meeting held September 9, 2022, the ESCOG Board made certain findings by resolution that:

1. The Board has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency related to COVID-19 and declared by Governor Newsom.
2. The Board finds that the above-mentioned state of emergency directly impacts the ability of ESCOG to meet safely in person because in person meetings, particularly with the public present, increase the likelihood that COVID-19 will be transmitted throughout the community.
3. Local officials—specifically the Health Officers of Inyo and Mono Counties—continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing.

The Board agreed to meet at least every 30 days to make findings to continue virtual meetings as appropriate.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

LEGAL REVIEW:

ESCOG Counsel Grace Chuchla has reviewed this item and found that it complies with the law.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board adopt a resolution regarding virtual meetings for the protection of public health pursuant to AB 361.