



AGENDA ITEM 8.A.

MEETING: October 19, 2021
TO: Trinity LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Metz Santsche, Executive Officer & Kathy Bull, Administrator/Clerk
SUBJECT: Return to In-Person Meetings and Teleconference Access Options

BACKGROUND

The Trinity LAFCo Commission has been meeting remotely via Zoom since April 2020 and conducting its meetings under the Governor's Executive Orders issued in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. The Executive Orders modified certain Brown Act requirements including the following:

- Waived the requirement that there be a physical meeting location open to the public to attend Commission meetings and comment during the meeting.
- Waived the requirement that the agenda identify and notice each teleconference location of each member of the Commission that is participating by teleconference.
- Waived the requirement that each teleconference location be accessible to the public.
- Waived the requirement that members of the public be able to address the Commission at each teleconference location.
- Waived the requirement that local agencies post agendas at all teleconference locations.
- Waived the requirement that at least a quorum of the Commission participate from within the boundaries of the territory of the Commission's jurisdiction.

The Governor's Executive Orders expired on September 30, 2021. At the June LAFCo meeting, the Commission discussed returning to in-person meetings with this October meeting being the first time back together.

DISCUSSION

Moving forward there are two teleconference access options that the Commission could consider as discussed below:

1. Remote Public Participation – the Library Meeting Room space is now set up to support zoom teleconference. The Trinity County Board of Supervisors has continued a hybrid approach allow limited in-person attendance and also remote public participation. One option is to continue to provide a zoom link to LAFCo meetings to allow members of the public to participate remotely. This would take some staff effort and coordination with County staff to arrange.

2. Remote Commission Participation - The Legislature approved as an urgency matter AB 361, which was signed by the Governor on September 16, 2021, which amends the Brown Act to allow continued public meetings flexibility following the Governor's Executive Orders expiration. The AB 361 modified meeting rules allowing remote meeting access can only be used in the event there is a Governor issued state of emergency. The Governor's COVID-19 state of emergency satisfies this requirement. If the Commission desires to continue to offer remote meeting access for Commissioners, the Commission will need to formally vote and adopt a resolution at a future meeting finding that the provisions of AB 361 exist. In addition, AB 361 requires the Commission to continually evaluate the COVID-19 emergency and determine if teleconference access at meetings will continue due the circumstances of the state of the emergency and facts related to the potential risks to the health and safety of meeting attendees.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Commission discuss these teleconference access options and provide direction to staff as desired.