

RE: Remote Meeting Legislation



From Christopher Norden <chrisn@csga.net>
To Colette Santsche <colette@trinitylafco.org>
Date 2022-01-28 12:15

Hi Colette;

So with the caveat that bills are still being introduced, it would appear that there are no bills currently with improving or changing AB 361. According to the Sacramento office, the author of AB 361 would like to see the provisions implemented and used for awhile before coming back and making changes.

Having said that, the Sacramento office also noted that Government Code 54954(e) within the Brown Act states:

"(e) If, by reason of fire, flood, earthquake, or other emergency, it shall be unsafe to meet in the place designated, the meetings shall be held for the duration of the emergency at the place designated by the presiding officer of the legislative body or his or her designee in a notice to the local media that have requested notice pursuant to Section 54956, by the most rapid means of communication available at the time."

Not sure if that provision would help you out at all with the situation that occurred last month. Let me know what else I can find for you, or if this was/was not helpful to you.

Thanks!

Chris Norden
Public Affairs Field Coordinator

-----Original Message-----

From: Colette Santsche <colette@trinitylafco.org>
Sent: Friday, January 21, 2022 3:36 PM
To: Christopher Norden <chrisn@csga.net>
Subject: Re: Remote Meeting Legislation

Thanks Chris! Let me know if you hear anything. My next Commission meeting is February 1st and I'm hoping to give them an update.

Have a great weekend!

Colette Santsche
Trinity LAFCo
707-825-8260

On 2022-01-13 11:11, Christopher Norden wrote:

Hi Colette - I apologize, this email was in my junk folder! I just found it this morning.

Let me check with our Sacramento office and see what we are working on currently with this. And if not, how we can help move this along for you.

I will follow up with you as soon as I can.

Sorry again!

Chris Norden
Northern California Public Affairs Field Coordinator

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-----Original Message-----

From: Colette Santsche <colette@trinitylafco.org>
Sent: Monday, January 10, 2022 2:52 PM
To: Christopher Norden <chrisn@csda.net>
Subject: Remote Meeting Legislation

Hi Chris,

I wanted to check in with you or someone at CSDA about remote meeting legislation. Trinity LAFCo has been attempting to proceed with hybrid in-person and/or remote meetings in accordance with AB 361. We had a situation last meeting where we agendaized a hybrid meeting, but then winter storms made it virtually impossible for commissioners to attend in-person. It is my understanding that AB 361's provisions can only be used in the event that a gubernatorial state of emergency has been issued and remains active.

I know there are efforts to make permanent revisions to the Brown Act for remote meetings and CSDA will be deeply involved in these conversations in Sacramento. I am wondering if there are any discussions or interest in expanding "health and safety" qualifying events to assist local agencies with continuing their critical operations despite facing emergencies that pose a risk to human health and safety – emergencies which oftentimes correspond with local or regional advisory or mandatory evacuation orders (e.g., wildfires, earthquakes, gas leaks, etc.) or extreme storm events.

If so, Trinity LAFCo would like to submit a letter of support to include broader health and safety related qualifying events into future Brown Act remote meeting legislation. Is this something that CSDA would entertain or have suggestions on how this topic can be passed along?

Let me know if you're interested in chatting more.

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Colette Santsche

Trinity LAFCo

707-825-8260