

RESOLUTION NO. 22-160

**RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AUTHORIZING CONTINUED REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION
54953, SUBDIVISION (e), OF THE RALPH M. BROWN ACT**

WHEREAS, the County of Ventura ("County") is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors ("Board");

WHEREAS, Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), of the Ralph M. Brown Act, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use remote teleconferencing in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions;

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558;

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing;

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist in Ventura County, specifically, Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 4, 2020 ("State of Emergency");

WHEREAS, on September 21 and November 15, 2021, Dr. Robert Levin, Ventura County Health Officer, issued recommendations to continue practicing social distancing measures throughout Ventura County communities, including to continue to implement 100 percent remote meetings of all legislative bodies in Ventura County, to prevent and minimize the spread of COVID-19 ("Recommendation to Promote Social Distancing");

WHEREAS, on October 19, 2021, November 16, 2021, December 14, 2021, January 11, 2022, February 8, 2022, March 8, 2022, April 26, 2022, May 24, 2022, June 21, 2022, July 26, 2022, and September 13, 2022, the Board considered the circumstances of the State of Emergency and Dr. Levin's Recommendation to Promote Social Distancing and resolved to continue remote teleconference meetings for thirty days;

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") indicate that the community transmission level is "low," the CDC also explains that "some people

and communities, such as our oldest citizens, people who are immunocompromised, and people with disabilities, are at higher risk for serious illness and face challenging decisions navigating a world with COVID-19. Like many other facilities throughout the County, the Board Chambers were not designed to ensure that attendees can remain six feet apart to reduce the possibility of infection with viruses that cause COVID-19. Further, Board meetings often attract significant attendance with community members and staff in close proximity for long periods of time, with some of those individuals or their families at a higher risk for serious illness from COVID. Such risks are reduced significantly by providing both an in-person and remote ability to participate in the meetings. This allows those at potentially higher risk an ability to still fully participate in local government while also potentially reducing the number of people that must participate in a meeting in person

WHEREAS, the Board does hereby find that it has reconsidered the circumstances of the State of Emergency, the State of Emergency remains active and continues to directly impact the ability of its members and attendees to meet safely in person, and that the Ventura County Health Officer, Dr. Robert Levin, continues to recommend measures to promote social distancing to minimize the spread of COVID-19 including that all legislative bodies in Ventura County continue to meet remotely, as further explained in his Recommendation to Promote Social Distancing, which has not been rescinded and remains in effect;

WHEREAS, the Board does hereby find that it shall conduct its meetings without compliance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3), as authorized by subdivision (e), of Government Code section 54953, and that the Board shall comply with the requirements set forth in Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(2); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board as follows:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct.

Section 2. County staff supporting the Board are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including conducting open and public meetings of the Board in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e), and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until November 11, 2022 or until the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting after November 11th and at such meeting the Board adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3), to extend the time during which the Board may continue to teleconference without compliance with Government Code section 54953, subdivision (b)(3).

Upon motion of Supervisor Parks, seconded by Supervisor Long, and duly carried, the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this resolution on 11 day of October, 2022.

Matt J.V.
Chair
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: DR. SEVET JOHNSON
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura, State of California

By: Lori Key
Deputy Clerk of the Board

