

RESOLUTION NO. 22-15

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST CONTRA COSTA INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY AUTHORIZING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 08, 2022 THROUGH OCTOBER 08, 2022

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed the existence of a state of emergency in California under the California Emergency Services Act, Government Code section 8550 et seq. (Declaration); and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive order N- 29-20 (Executive Order), which suspended the teleconferencing rules set forth in California provided certain requirements were met and followed; and

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-08-21, which clarified the suspension of the teleconferencing rules set forth in the Ralph M. Brown Act and further provided that those provisions would remain suspended through September 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 361, which provides that under Government Code section 54953(e), a legislation body subject to the Ralph M. Brown Act may continue to meet using teleconferencing without complying with the non-emergency teleconferencing rules in Government Code section 54953(b)(3) if a proclaimed state of emergency exists and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; and

WHEREAS, such conditions exist in the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority (RecycleMore) jurisdiction. In addition to the Governor's Declaration, the Contra Costa County Health Officer has issued numerous Health Orders regarding safety protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, on August 2, 2021, the Contra Costa County Health Officer issued an Order requiring all individuals in the County, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings in all indoor public settings and businesses for the control of COVID-19. The Order was amended as of November 1, 2021 to allow groups of fully vaccinated individuals to remove masks indoors under limited circumstances, but the amendment does not apply to indoor spaces "open to the general public". This Public Health Officer Order will be in effect until rescinded, superseded or further amended; and

WHEREAS, on December 9, 2021, the Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 21-05 initially authorizing teleconferenced meetings to be conducted pursuant to AB 361 from December 18, 2021 to January 18th; and

WHEREAS, the emergence of the Omicron Variants of COVID-19 has resulted in the CDC's designation of it as Variant of Concern noting that it may spread more easily than other Variants, including Delta, and that fully vaccinated people who become infected with the Omicron Variant can spread the virus to others. In fact, the first verified case of the Omicron Variant in the United States has been confirmed as an individual in the Bay Area who was fully

vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, the Contra Costa Health Services Department, as of 8-9-2022¹, recommends that online meetings (i.e. teleconferencing meetings) are encouraged, where practical, as these meetings present the lowest risk of transmission of SARS CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID 19. This is particularly important when community prevalence rates are high. Our current trends as of August 9, 2022 in Covid-19 case rate, test positivity, Covid-19 hospitalizations, and Covid-19 wastewater surveillance are stable and currently trending lower. In addition to this, the predominant variant of Covid-19 being identified continues to be the Omicron variant and it's subvariants the impact of which on the spread of Covid-19 has shown to dramatically increase COVID-19 transmission.

WHEREAS, in the interest of public health and safety, as affected by the emergency caused by the spread of COVID-19, RecycleMore intends to continue utilizing the provisions of Assembly Bill 361 related to teleconferencing in the manner authorized by Government Code § 54953(e), and such legislative body shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in Government Code § 54953(e)(2); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority as follows:

1. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.
2. In compliance with AB 361 (2021), and in order to continue to conduct teleconference meetings without complying with the usual teleconference meeting requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Board of Directors makes the following findings:
 - a. The Board of Directors has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency; and
 - b. The state of emergency, as declared by the Governor, continues to directly impact the ability of the Board of Directors, including RecycleMore's legislative bodies and staff, as well as staff and members of the public, from meeting safely in person; and
 - c. The CDC and Contra Costa County Department of Public Health continue to recommend physical distancing of at least six feet due to COVID-19 and as a result of the presence of COVID-19 and the Delta and Omicron Variants, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees, the legislative bodies, and staff.
3. The Board of Directors and RecycleMore's legislative bodies may continue to meet remotely in compliance with AB 361, in order to better ensure the health and safety of the public and staff in accordance with the provisions of Government Code section 54953(e).

¹ Mekuria, MD, MPH, Sefanit. "Contra Costa County - Health Services Bulletin." Contra Costa Health Services, August 9, 2022. <https://cchealth.org/covid19/pdf/recommendations-for-safe-public-meetings.pdf>.

4. The Board of Directors will revisit the need to conduct meetings remotely before October 08, 2022.
5. Staff is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to implement the intent and purpose of this resolution, including conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and all other application provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act; and
6. Staff is directed to return no later than October 08, 2022 with an item for the Board of Directors of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority to consider whether to continue meeting under the provisions of Assembly Bill 361.

ATTEST:

CHAIR OF THE BOARD:

Donald W. Sturman

Sep 12, 2022

Donald W. Sturman – Authority Secretary Date

Dan Romero

Sep 13, 2022

[Dan Romero \(Sep 13, 2022 08:22 PDT\)](#)

Dan Romero, Board Chair Date

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors of the West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority at its meeting of September 08, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors: Dan Romero, Nat Bates, Anthony Tave, Abel Pineda

NOES: Directors: _____

ABSENT: Directors: Gayle McLaughlin (attended late), Melvin Willis, Tessa Rudnick

Donald W. Sturman

Donald W. Sturman, Authority Secretary

5025139.1










Resolution 22-15 AB 361 Initial Findings September 08 - October 08 2022

Final Audit Report

2022-09-13

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