



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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Date: August 18, 2022

To: Yolo Animal Services Planning Agency JPA

Fr: Joanne Van Hoosear, Management Analyst

Re: Authorize Continued Remote Meetings

Subject

Renew authorization for remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings pursuant to Assembly Bill 361 on the basis that (a) the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is ongoing, and (b) meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Reason for Recommended Action/Background

The Yolo Animal Services Planning Agency JPA (“JPA”) has been meeting remotely since the first meeting of the JPA on October 1, 2020. AB 361 amended the Brown Act to add simplified procedures that make it easier to hold remote meetings during a state of emergency proclaimed by the Governor (a local emergency is insufficient). To meet remotely during a proclaimed emergency, the legislative body must find either of the following circumstances is present: (a) state or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing; or (b) as a result of the declared emergency, the legislative body finds by majority vote that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

Through March 2022, the JPA relied on the social distancing recommendations of the County Health Officer in adopting AB 361 findings. Like many other county health officers, however, Dr. Sisson is no longer recommending social distancing and JPA Members must therefore consider the "imminent risks" finding to continue meeting remotely. The “imminent risk” finding is substantiated based on:

- Public meeting spaces in County buildings were not designed to ensure attendees can remain the necessary six feet apart to reduce the possibility of infection with the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Holding in-person meetings requires community members to come to County facilities to participate in local government. Some public members and members of the JPA are likely to be at high risk for serious illness from COVID-19 and/or live with someone who is at high risk.

On these grounds, staff believe JPA Members can appropriately make the findings necessary to allow continued implementation of AB 361.