

# San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission Meeting Agenda, October 20, 2022, 9:00am

# **MEETING**

October 20, 2022 – 9 A.M. ZOOM MEETING, SEE ACCESS INFORMATION BELOW

# **CONTACT**

ROB FITZROY
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
805-781-5795
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# COMMISSIONERS

ED WAAGE, CHAIR, CITY
DEBBIE ARNOLD, VICE CHAIR, COUNTY
LYNN COMPTON, COUNTY
STEVE GREGORY, CITY
MARSHALL OCHYLSKI, SPECIAL DISTRICT
ROBERT ENNS, SPECIAL DISTRICT
HEATHER JENSEN, PUBLIC
DAWN ORTIZ-LEGG, COUNTY ALTERNATE
CHARLES BOURBEAU, CITY ALTERNATE
ED EBY, SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE
DAVID WATSON, PUBLIC ALTERNATE

# MEETING PARTICIPATION

- To submit written comment, mention the matter or agenda item number and send via email to mbing@slo.lafco.ca.gov or fill out an online submission form on our website at slo.lafco.ca.gov, or U.S. mail at 1042 Pacific St Suite A, San Luis Obispo CA, 93401. All correspondence is distributed to each Commissioner and will become part of the official record of the Commission meeting.
- To submit a pre-recorded verbal comment call (805) 781-5795; state and spell your name, mention the
  agenda item number you are calling about and leave your comment. Your comments will be distributed to
  each Commissioner and will become part of the official record of the Commission meeting.
- <u>To provide live comment</u>, join the meeting via Zoom (see meeting access information below) and press the "raise a hand" button or if joining by phone only, press \*9 to indicate a desire to make comment. The chair or staff will call you by name or phone number when it is your turn to comment; limited to 3 minutes per item.
  - \* If you are joining by Zoom & phone, still use the Zoom raise hand button as \*9 will **not** work.

# Other Notes:

- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate
  at this meeting, please contact the Clerk at 805-781-5795. Notification provided a minimum of 48 hours
  prior to the meeting will enable the Clerk to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this
  meeting. Pursuant to the ADA, the meeting room is accessible to the physically disabled.
- It is required by Government Code Section 84308 that a participant in a LAFCO proceeding who has a
  financial interest in the decision and who has made a campaign contribution of more than \$250 to any
  Commissioner within (12) months prior, must disclose the contribution. If you are affected, please notify

Commission Staff before the hearing.

# **MEETING ACCESS**

# **LAFCO Commission Meetings can be viewed at:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87452306550?pwd=R1ZyOHpHOS9uc3VzRVc3NHplVmhHQT09

Webinar ID: 874 5230 6550 Password: 511720

Call-in Number: 1 669 900 6833 Public Comments: On the agenda cover page

# **MEETING AGENDA**

# Call to Order/Roll Call

Approval of the Minutes: August 18, 2022 (Pages 3 - 7)

# **Non-Agenda Public Comment Period**

This is the period in which persons may speak on items that are not on the regular agenda. You may provide public comment in one of the three methods mentioned above in the "Meeting Participation" section.

# **Consent Agenda**

A-1: Resolution Regarding Commission Meetings Held by Teleconference as Provided by AB 361 (Recommend Review and Approve) (Pages 8 - 13)

# **Informational Matters**

B-1: New Teleconferencing Rules Specified Under AB 2449 (Recommend Receive and File) (Pages 14 - 37)

# **Regular Matters**

C-1: LAFCO File 1-R-21: Annexation #82 to the City of San Luis Obispo (Froom Ranch Specific Plan Area) Time Extension Request (Recommend Review and Approve) (Pages 38 - 41)

# **Commissioner Comments**

# **Legal Counsel Comments**

# **Executive Officer Comments**

# **Adjournment**



# SAN LUIS OBISPO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION AUGUST 18, 2022, MEETING MINUTES

# **Call to Order**

The San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 18, 2022, by Chairperson Ed Waage through Zoom pursuant to the COVID-19 provisions of the Governor's Executive Order AB 361.

# **Roll Call**

Present: Chairperson Ed Waage, Vice-Chair Debbie Arnold, Commissioners Lynn Compton,

Robert Enns, Steve Gregory, and Marshall Ochylski, and Alternate Commissioners Ed

Eby, and David Watson

Absent: Commissioner Heather Jensen, and Alternate Commissioners Charles Bourbeau, and

Dawn Ortiz-Legg

**Staff:** Rob Fitzroy, LAFCO Executive Officer

Imelda Marquez, LAFCO Analyst Morgan Bing, LAFCO Clerk Analyst Brian Pierik, LAFCO Legal Counsel

**Approval of the Minutes**: July 21, 2022

**Chairperson Waage** announced the consideration of approval for the July 21, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes.

**Commissioner Watson** asked for clarification on procedures for voting to approve minutes.

**Chairperson Waage** responded to the question and provided answers.

Chairperson Waage asked if any written or live public comments were received.

Ms. Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

**Chairperson Waage** closed public comment and asked for Commissioner comments or a motion to approve the minutes.

**Commissioner Ochylski** motioned to approve the minutes.

**Commissioner Compton** seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioners Ochylski, Compton, Enns, Gregory, Watson, Vice Chair Arnold,

and Chairperson Waage

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

The motion was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

# **Non-Agenda Public Comments**

**Chairperson Waage** asked if any written or live non-agenda public comment requests were received.

Ms. Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

# **Consent Agenda**

**A-1:** Resolution Regarding Commission Meetings Held by Teleconference as Provided by AB 361 (Recommend Review and Approve)

**Chairperson Waage** asked if any written or live comments from the public were received.

Ms. Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

**Chairperson Waage** closed public comment and asked for Commissioner motion to approve the Consent Agenda item.

**Commissioner Enns** motioned to approve the items on consent.

Commissioner Watson seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioner Enns, Watson, Compton, Gregory, Ochylski, Vice Chair Arnold, and

Chairperson Waage

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

The motion was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

# **Regular Matters**

**B-1:** Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Year End Budget Report (Recommend Review and Approve)

Mr. Fitzroy presented the item.

**Chairperson Waage** opened the item for commissioner questions, hearing none.

**Chairperson Waage** asked if any written or live comments from the public were received.

Ms. Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

**Chairperson Waage** closed public comment and asked for additional comments or Commissioner motion to approve the action to receive and file the Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Year End Budget Report and direct the Executive Officer to submit it to the County Auditor/Controller.

**Commissioner Compton** motioned to approve the action.

Vice Chair Arnold seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioner Compton, Vice Chair Arnold, Commissioners Enns, Gregory,

Ochylski, Watson, and Chairperson Waage

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

The motion was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**B-2:** Office Lease Modification (Recommend Review and Approve)

**Mr. Fitzroy** presented the item.

**Chairperson Waage** opened the item for commissioner questions, hearing none.

Chairperson Waage asked if any written or live comments from the public were received.

**Ms.** Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

**Chairperson Waage** closed public comment and asked for additional comments or Commissioner motion to approve the action to review the proposed lease modifications summary and draft lease agreement and direct the Chair of the Commission to sign the lease agreement.

**Commissioner Ochylski** motioned to approve the action.

**Commissioner Gregory** seconded the motion.

AYES: Commissioners Ochylski, Gregory, Compton, Enns, Watson, Vice Chair Arnold,

and Chairperson Waage

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

The motion was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

**B-3:** 2022 Biennial Update of the Conflict of Interest Code (Recommend Review and Approve)

**Mr. Fitzroy** presented the item.

**Chairperson Waage** opened the item for commissioner comments, hearing none.

**Chairperson Waage** asked if any written or live comments from the public were received.

**Ms.** Bing reported that no written or live public comments were received.

**Chairperson Waage** closed public comment and asked for additional comments or Commissioner motion to approve the action to adopt the resolution to amend the conflict of interest code.

**Vice Chair Arnold** made a motion to approve the action.

**Commissioner Compton** seconded the motion.

AYES: Vice Chair Arnold, Commissioners Compton, Enns, Gregory, Ochylski, Watson,

and Chairperson Waage.

NAYS: None

ABSTAINING: None

The motion was passed with a unanimous roll call vote.

<u>Commissioner Comments:</u> Chairperson Waage inquired about staff availability for

signing documents.

**Commissioner Ochylski** thanked staff for their work.

<u>Legal Counsel Comments:</u> None

Executive Officer Comments: Mr. Fitzroy commented on the website URL and staff

email changes and provided updates on the LAFCO Special

District Alternate Seat election.

<u>Adjournment:</u> With no further business before the Commission, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 a.m. until the next meeting of the Commission pursuant to Governor's Executive Orders, depending upon the progression of the COVID-19 pandemic.

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL NOR ARE THEY A PERMANENT PART OF THE RECORD UNTIL THEY ARE APPROVED BY LAFCO COMMISSIONERS AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING.

\_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted, Morgan Bing, LAFCO Clerk Analyst





# COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson ED WAAGE City Member

Vice-Chair
DEBBIE ARNOLD
County Member

LYNN COMPTON
County Member

MARSHALL OCHYLSKI Special District Member

ROBERT ENNS
Special District Member

STEVE GREGORY
City Member

HEATHER JENSEN
Public Member

#### **ALTERNATES**

Dawn Ortiz-Legg County Member

ED EBY
Special District Member

CHARLES BOURBEAU
City Member

David Watson Public Member

#### STAFF

ROB FITZROY
Executive Officer

IMELDA MARQUEZ
Analyst

Morgan Bing Clerk Analyst

BRIAN A. PIERIK Legal Counsel

# San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

FROM: BRIAN PIERIK, LEGAL COUNSEL

**DATE:** OCTOBER 20, 2022

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION REGARDING COMMISSION MEETINGS HELD BY

**TELECONFERENCE AS PROVIDED BY AB361** 

# **RECOMMENDATION**

It is respectfully recommended that the Commission consider taking the following actions:

**Action 1:** Adopt Resolution of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission Proclaiming the Continuing Need to Meet by Teleconference Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953 (e).

# **DISCUSSION**

All meetings of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission ("Commission") are open and public as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963).

Before COVID-19, Section 54953(b) of the Brown Act allowed for teleconferencing if the public agency complied with the following requirements:

- 1. At least a quorum of the members of the legislative body must participate from locations within the boundaries within the jurisdiction of the local agency.
- 2. An agenda shall be posted at all teleconference locations.
- 3. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
- 4. Each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public.

Due to COVID-19, Governor Newsom temporarily suspended compliance with these requirements and as a result, city officials were allowed to teleconference from locations such as their homes without needing to open up those homes or other

locations for entry by members of the public. However, Governor Newsom's temporary suspension of such rules expired on September 30, 2021. AB 361 allows the modified teleconferencing rules to continue, subject to the existence of certain requirements of Government Code Section 54953 (e).

Government Code section 54953(e)(1), which was adopted by AB 361, lists the circumstances under which a local agency may use such modified teleconferencing procedures, as follows:

- (1) A local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:
- (A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- (B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
- (C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The State of Emergency remains in effect and COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and lives of the public and the Delta and Omicron variants are highly transmissible in indoor settings.

For these reasons, the recommended action is for the Commission to adopt the Resolution of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission Proclaiming The Continuing Need To Meet By Teleconference Pursuant To Government Code Section 54953 (e), Attachment A to this Staff Report.

The attached Resolution will authorize the Commission to hold teleconference meetings within the requirements of AB 361 but does not prohibit the Commission from holding in person meetings in the future.

If the state of emergency ends or if the Commission decides to rescind the Resolution, then meetings of the Commission must comply with the pre-COVID teleconferencing rules of 54953(b) described earlier in this Staff Report.

**Attachment A:** Resolution of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission Proclaiming The Continuing Need To Meet By Teleconference Pursuant To Government Code Section 54953 (e)

# **Attachment A**

Resolution of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission Proclaiming The Continuing Need To Meet By Teleconference Pursuant To Government Code Section 54953 (e)

# IN THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Thursday, October 20, 2022

# **RESOLUTION NO. 2022-XX**

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN LUIS OBISPO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION PROCLAIMING THE CONTINUING NEED TO MEET BY TELECONFERENCE PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953 (e)

**WHEREAS**, all meetings of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission are open and public as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963); and

**WHEREAS**, the Brown Act, Government Code Section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code Section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom declared a State of Emergency as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, such State of Emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to threaten the health and lives of the public; and

WHEREAS, the Delta and Omicron variants are highly transmissible in indoor settings; and

WHEREAS, breakthrough cases are becoming more common

WHEREAS, on August 18, 2022, the Commission adopted a Resolution Proclaiming The Continuing Need To Meet By Teleconference Pursuant To Government Code Section 54953

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED** by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of San Luis Obispo, State of California ("Commission"), as follows:

- 1. <u>Recitals</u>. The Recitals set forth hereinabove are true and correct and are hereby incorporated by this reference.
- 2. <u>Imminent Risk to Health and Safety</u>. Due to COVID-19, holding meetings of the Commission in person will present imminent risk to the health and safety to attendees.

Resolution No. 2022-XX Page 2 of 3

- 3. <u>Findings</u>. The Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency and finds that the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
- 4. <u>Compliance With Government Code Section 54953.</u> The Commission will continue to meet by teleconference in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e).
- 5. <u>Effective Date of Resolution</u>. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) the day after the next meeting of the Commission or (ii) such time the Commission adopts a subsequent resolution rescinding this Resolution.
- 6. <u>Future Resolutions</u>. The Commission expressly reserves the right to adopt Resolutions more than 30 days after this date of adoption of this Resolution to authorize the Commission to continue to meet by teleconference in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) provided that a State of Emergency exists as of the date of adoption of such Resolutions.

Upon a motion of,	_, seconded by Commissioner			
on the following roll call vote:				
AYES:				
NAYS:				
ABESENT:				
ABSTAINING:				
The foregoing resolution is hereby adop	ted.			
ATTEST:	Ed Waage, Chair Da Local Agency Formation Commission	ate		
Rob Fitzroy Da LAFCO Executive Officer	te			

# APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGAL EFFECT:

Brian Pierik Date LAFCO Legal Counsel

CAM #4863-9908-1729 v1



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Vice-Chair DEBBIE ARNOLD County Member

LYNN COMPTON
County Member

MARSHALL OCHYLSKI Special District Member

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David Watson Public Member

# <u>Staff</u>

ROB FITZROY
Executive Officer

IMELDA MARQUEZ Analyst

Morgan Bing Clerk Analyst

Brian A. Pierik Legal Counsel

# San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission

TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

FROM: ROB FITZROY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**DATE:** OCTOBER 20, 2022

SUBJECT: NEW TELECONFERENCING RULES SPECIFIED UNDER AB 2449

# RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully recommended that the Commission receive and file this information regarding new teleconferencing rules specified under AB 2449.

# **DISCUSSION**

Currently, LAFCO and other agencies throughout the State are allowed to hold remote teleconference meetings under the provisions of AB 361. It is expected that AB 361, which is in effect as long as there is a declared state of emergency within California, will remain until January 1, 2024. In an effort to bridge the gap from AB 361 and to allow remote meetings without a declared state of emergency, the State developed new legislation.

On September 13, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom signed California Assembly Bill 2449 (AB 2449) into law. AB 2449 amends the Brown Act to provide additional procedures for members of legislative bodies to attend public meetings remotely. It will become effective on January 1, 2023.

Under this new law, as long as a quorum of the legislative body participates in person from a physical location open to the public, an agency member or members can participate remotely under two circumstances:

# 1. Just Cause

Just cause under the new law is defined as any one of the following:

- childcare or caregiving of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires a member to participate remotely
- a contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person
- a need related to a physical or mental disability
- travel while on business of the legislative body or another state or local agency

In order to participate remotely under the *just cause* provisions, the member must notify the legislative body at the earliest possible opportunity, including at the start of a meeting, of their need to participate remotely and provide a general description of the circumstances related to one of the four items above.

A member may only participate remotely under the *just cause* provisions up to two meetings per calendar year.

# 2. Emergency Circumstances

Emergency circumstances means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.

In order to participate remotely under the emergency circumstances provisions, the member must request that the legislative body allow them to participate in the meeting remotely because of emergency circumstances and the legislative body must take action to approve the request.

A member must make a request to participate remotely under the emergency circumstances provisions as soon as possible. The legislative body may take action on this request at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place it on the agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action on the request at the beginning of the meeting by majority vote.

The legislative body must request a general description of the circumstances relating to the member's need to appear remotely. This description does not have to be more than 20 words and the member does not have to disclose any personal medical information.

# **Additional Rules if Members Participate Remotely**

If agency members participate remotely under this new law for either the *just cause* or emergency circumstances situations described above then the following rules apply:

- The legislative body must provide a way for the public to remotely hear, visually observe, and remotely address the legislative body, either by a two-way audiovisual platform or a two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.
- The legislative body must provide notice of how the public can access the meeting and offer comments.
- The agenda must identify and include an opportunity for the public to attend and directly address the legislative body through a call-in option, an internet-based service option, and in-person at the location of the meeting.
- The body cannot require comments to be submitted before the start of the meeting. The public must be allowed to make "real time" public comment.

- If there is a disruption to the meeting broadcast or in the ability to take call-in or internetbased public comment, no further action can be taken on agenda items until the issue is resolved.
- The legislative body must implement a procedure for receiving and resolving requests for reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and must give notice of these procedures.
- Members participating remotely must participate through both audio and visual technology.
- Members participating remotely must publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member and the general nature of the member's relationship with the individual.
- A member may not participate in meetings solely by teleconference under this law for more than three consecutive months or 20% of the regular meetings for the public agency within a calendar year. If the legislative body regularly meets less than 10 times a year, a member may not participate remotely for more than two meetings.

## **Conclusions**

Once AB 2449 takes effect on January 1, 2023, LAFCO will have three options for holding meetings.

- 1. Traditional in person meetings
- 2. AB 361 remote meetings until the state of emergency is revoked
- 3. AB 2449 meetings wherein a member may participate remotely insofar as there is a quorum in person elsewhere

As of this date, in person meetings which are typically held in the Board of Supervisors chambers do not offer hybrid technological capabilities, that is, the Board of Supervisors chambers does not have the capability to host an in-person meeting while allowing some members to attend remotely. As a result, until this technology is available, LAFCO will not be able to take advantage of the provisions of AB 2449. Staff will continue to coordinate with County staff on this matter and we will update the Commission accordingly.

Attachment A: Assembly Bill No. 2449

# **Attachment A**

Assembly Bill No. 2449

# Assembly Bill No. 2449

## **CHAPTER 285**

An act to amend, repeal, and add Sections 54953 and 54954.2 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

[Approved by Governor September 13, 2022. Filed with Secretary of State September 13, 2022.]

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2449, Blanca Rubio. Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences. Existing law, the Ralph M. Brown Act, requires, with specified exceptions, that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency, as those terms are defined, be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. The act generally requires posting an agenda at least 72 hours before a regular meeting that contains a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, and prohibits any action or discussion from being undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. The act authorizes a legislative body to take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under specified conditions. The act contains specified provisions regarding providing for the ability of the public to observe and provide comment. The act allows for meetings to occur via teleconferencing subject to certain requirements, particularly that the legislative body notice each teleconference location of each member that will be participating in the public meeting, that each teleconference location be accessible to the public, that members of the public be allowed to address the legislative body at each teleconference location, that the legislative body post an agenda at each teleconference location, and that at least a quorum of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the local agency's jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined.

Existing law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with those specified teleconferencing requirements in specified circumstances when a declared state of emergency is in effect, or in other situations related to public health.

This bill would revise and recast those teleconferencing provisions and, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a local agency to use teleconferencing without complying with the teleconferencing requirements that each teleconference location be identified in the notice and agenda and that each teleconference location be accessible to the public if at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the local agency's jurisdiction. Under this exception,

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the bill would authorize a member to participate remotely under specified circumstances, including participating remotely for just cause or due to emergency circumstances. The emergency circumstances basis for remote participation would be contingent on a request to, and action by, the legislative body, as prescribed. The bill, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a legislative body to consider and take action on a request from a member to participate in a meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances if the request does not allow sufficient time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made. The bill would define terms for purposes of these teleconferencing provisions.

This bill would impose prescribed requirements for this exception relating to notice, agendas, the means and manner of access, and procedures for disruptions. The bill would require the legislative body to implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with federal law

Existing constitutional provisions require that a statute that limits the right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies be adopted with findings demonstrating the interest protected by the limitation and the need for protecting that interest.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The California Constitution requires local agencies, for the purpose of ensuring public access to the meetings of public bodies and the writings of public officials and agencies, to comply with a statutory enactment that amends or enacts laws relating to public records or open meetings and contains findings demonstrating that the enactment furthers the constitutional requirements relating to this purpose.

This bill would make legislative findings to that effect.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as amended by Section 3 of Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 2021, is amended to read:

54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.

(b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

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- (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:
  - (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.
- (C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.
- (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.
- (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivisions (d) and (e).
- (c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.
- (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
- (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

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- (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.
- (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.
- (e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with the requirements of paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if the legislative body complies with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subdivision in any of the following circumstances:
- (A) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.
- (B) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
- (C) The legislative body holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, pursuant to subparagraph (B), that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.
- (2) A legislative body that holds a meeting pursuant to this subdivision shall do all of the following:
- (A) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment. The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend via a call-in option or an internet-based service option.
- (B) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items

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during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

- (C) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.
- (D) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.
- (E) (i) A legislative body that provides a timed public comment period for each agenda item shall not close the public comment period for the agenda item, or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), to provide public comment until that timed public comment period has elapsed.
- (ii) A legislative body that does not provide a timed public comment period, but takes public comment separately on each agenda item, shall allow a reasonable amount of time per agenda item to allow public members the opportunity to provide public comment, including time for members of the public to register pursuant to subparagraph (F), or otherwise be recognized for the purpose of providing public comment.
- (iii) A legislative body that provides a timed general public comment period that does not correspond to a specific agenda item shall not close the public comment period or the opportunity to register, pursuant to subparagraph (F), until the timed general public comment period has elapsed.
- (3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:
- (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
  - (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:
- (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
- (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.
- (4) This subdivision shall not be construed to require the legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment.
- (f) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency

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exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:

- (A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:
  - (i) A two-way audiovisual platform.
  - (ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.
- (B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.
- (C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.
- (D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.
- (E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.
- (F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.
- (2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:
  - (A) One of the following circumstances applies:
- (i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.
- (ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear

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remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:

- (I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.
- (II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.
- (B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken, whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.
- (C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.
- (3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.
- (g) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.
- (h) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.
- (i) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing members of the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.
  - (i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
- (1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.
  - (2) "Just cause" means any of the following:

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- (A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.
  - (B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (g).
- (D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.
- (3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (f), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.
- (4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.
- (5) "State of emergency" means a state of emergency proclaimed pursuant to Section 8625 of the California Emergency Services Act (Article 1 (commencing with Section 8550) of Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2).
- (6) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.
- (7) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.
- (8) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.
- (9) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.
- (k) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2024, and as of that date is repealed.
- SEC. 2. Section 54953 of the Government Code, as added by Section 4 of Chapter 165 of the Statutes of 2021, is amended to read:
- 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
- (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding

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shall comply with all otherwise applicable requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.

- (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, the legislative body of a local agency shall comply with all of the following:
  - (A) All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (B) The teleconferenced meetings shall be conducted in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency.
- (C) The legislative body shall give notice of the meeting and post agendas as otherwise required by this chapter.
- (D) The legislative body shall allow members of the public to access the meeting and the agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3.
- (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d).
- (c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.
- (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action
- (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Division 10 (commencing with Section 7920.000) of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows

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any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.

- (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.
- (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.
- (e) (1) The legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing without complying with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda, which location shall be open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction and the legislative body complies with all of the following:
- (A) The legislative body shall provide at least one of the following as a means by which the public may remotely hear and visually observe the meeting, and remotely address the legislative body:
  - (i) A two-way audiovisual platform.
  - (ii) A two-way telephonic service and a live webcasting of the meeting.
- (B) In each instance in which notice of the time of the teleconferenced meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the means by which members of the public may access the meeting and offer public comment.
- (C) The agenda shall identify and include an opportunity for all persons to attend and address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 via a call-in option, via an internet-based service option, and at the in-person location of the meeting.
- (D) In the event of a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting to members of the public using the call-in option or internet-based service option, or in the event of a disruption within the local agency's control that prevents members of the public from offering public comments using the call-in option or internet-based service option, the legislative body shall take no further action on items appearing on the meeting agenda until public access to the meeting via the call-in option or internet-based service option is restored. Actions taken on agenda items

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during a disruption that prevents the legislative body from broadcasting the meeting may be challenged pursuant to Section 54960.1.

- (E) The legislative body shall not require public comments to be submitted in advance of the meeting and must provide an opportunity for the public to address the legislative body and offer comment in real time.
- (F) Notwithstanding Section 54953.3, an individual desiring to provide public comment through the use of an internet website, or other online platform, not under the control of the local legislative body, that requires registration to log in to a teleconference may be required to register as required by the third-party internet website or online platform to participate.
- (2) A member of the legislative body shall only participate in the meeting remotely pursuant to this subdivision, if all of the following requirements are met:
  - (A) One of the following circumstances applies:
- (i) The member notifies the legislative body at the earliest opportunity possible, including at the start of a regular meeting, of their need to participate remotely for just cause, including a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. The provisions of this clause shall not be used by any member of the legislative body for more than two meetings per calendar year.
- (ii) The member requests the legislative body to allow them to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances and the legislative body takes action to approve the request. The legislative body shall request a general description of the circumstances relating to their need to appear remotely at the given meeting. A general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words and shall not require the member to disclose any medical diagnosis or disability, or any personal medical information that is already exempt under existing law, such as the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act (Chapter 1 (commencing with Section 56) of Part 2.6 of Division 1 of the Civil Code). For the purposes of this clause, the following requirements apply:
- (I) A member shall make a request to participate remotely at a meeting pursuant to this clause as soon as possible. The member shall make a separate request for each meeting in which they seek to participate remotely.
- (II) The legislative body may take action on a request to participate remotely at the earliest opportunity. If the request does not allow sufficient time to place proposed action on such a request on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made, the legislative body may take action at the beginning of the meeting in accordance with paragraph (4) of subdivision (b) of Section 54954.2.
- (B) The member shall publicly disclose at the meeting before any action is taken whether any other individuals 18 years of age or older are present in the room at the remote location with the member, and the general nature of the member's relationship with any such individuals.
- (C) The member shall participate through both audio and visual technology.

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- (3) The provisions of this subdivision shall not serve as a means for any member of a legislative body to participate in meetings of the legislative body solely by teleconference from a remote location for a period of more than three consecutive months or 20 percent of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than two meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year.
- (f) The legislative body shall have and implement a procedure for receiving and swiftly resolving requests for reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities, consistent with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and resolving any doubt in favor of accessibility. In each instance in which notice of the time of the meeting is otherwise given or the agenda for the meeting is otherwise posted, the legislative body shall also give notice of the procedure for receiving and resolving requests for accommodation.
- (g) The legislative body shall conduct meetings subject to this chapter consistent with applicable civil rights and nondiscrimination laws.
- (h) (1) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a legislative body from providing members of the public with additional physical locations in which the public may observe and address the legislative body by electronic means.
  - (i) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
- (1) "Emergency circumstances" means a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person.
  - (2) "Just cause" means any of the following:
- (A) A childcare or caregiving need of a child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or domestic partner that requires them to participate remotely. "Child," "parent," "grandparent," "grandchild," and "sibling" have the same meaning as those terms do in Section 12945.2.
  - (B) A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person.
- (C) A need related to a physical or mental disability as defined in Sections 12926 and 12926.1 not otherwise accommodated by subdivision (f).
- (D) Travel while on official business of the legislative body or another state or local agency.
- (3) "Remote location" means a location from which a member of a legislative body participates in a meeting pursuant to subdivision (e), other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Remote locations need not be accessible to the public.
- (4) "Remote participation" means participation in a meeting by teleconference at a location other than any physical meeting location designated in the notice of the meeting. Watching or listening to a meeting via webcasting or another similar electronic medium that does not permit members to interactively hear, discuss, or deliberate on matters, does not constitute remote participation.
- (5) "Teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both.

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- (6) "Two-way audiovisual platform" means an online platform that provides participants with the ability to participate in a meeting via both an interactive video conference and a two-way telephonic function.
- (7) "Two-way telephonic service" means a telephone service that does not require internet access, is not provided as part of a two-way audiovisual platform, and allows participants to dial a telephone number to listen and verbally participate.
- (8) "Webcasting" means a streaming video broadcast online or on television, using streaming media technology to distribute a single content source to many simultaneous listeners and viewers.
- (j) This section shall become operative January 1, 2024, shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.
  - SEC. 3. Section 54953 is added to the Government Code, to read:
- 54953. (a) All meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body of a local agency, except as otherwise provided in this chapter.
- (b) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the legislative body of a local agency may use teleconferencing for the benefit of the public and the legislative body of a local agency in connection with any meeting or proceeding authorized by law. The teleconferenced meeting or proceeding shall comply with all requirements of this chapter and all otherwise applicable provisions of law relating to a specific type of meeting or proceeding.
- (2) Teleconferencing, as authorized by this section, may be used for all purposes in connection with any meeting within the subject matter jurisdiction of the legislative body. All votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by rollcall.
- (3) If the legislative body of a local agency elects to use teleconferencing, it shall post agendas at all teleconference locations and conduct teleconference meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of the parties or the public appearing before the legislative body of a local agency. Each teleconference location shall be identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and each teleconference location shall be accessible to the public. During the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body shall participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, except as provided in subdivision (d). The agenda shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address the legislative body directly pursuant to Section 54954.3 at each teleconference location.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, "teleconference" means a meeting of a legislative body, the members of which are in different locations, connected by electronic means, through either audio or video, or both. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a local agency from providing the public with additional teleconference locations.

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(c) (1) No legislative body shall take action by secret ballot, whether preliminary or final.

- (2) The legislative body of a local agency shall publicly report any action taken and the vote or abstention on that action of each member present for the action.
- (3) Prior to taking final action, the legislative body shall orally report a summary of a recommendation for a final action on the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of a local agency executive, as defined in subdivision (d) of Section 3511.1, during the open meeting in which the final action is to be taken. This paragraph shall not affect the public's right under the California Public Records Act (Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 6250) of Division 7 of Title 1) to inspect or copy records created or received in the process of developing the recommendation.
- (d) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions relating to a quorum in paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), if a health authority conducts a teleconference meeting, members who are outside the jurisdiction of the authority may be counted toward the establishment of a quorum when participating in the teleconference if at least 50 percent of the number of members that would establish a quorum are present within the boundaries of the territory over which the authority exercises jurisdiction, and the health authority provides a teleconference number, and associated access codes, if any, that allows any person to call in to participate in the meeting and the number and access codes are identified in the notice and agenda of the meeting.
- (2) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed as discouraging health authority members from regularly meeting at a common physical site within the jurisdiction of the authority or from using teleconference locations within or near the jurisdiction of the authority. A teleconference meeting for which a quorum is established pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to all other requirements of this section.
- (3) For purposes of this subdivision, a health authority means any entity created pursuant to Sections 14018.7, 14087.31, 14087.35, 14087.36, 14087.38, and 14087.9605 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, any joint powers authority created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 for the purpose of contracting pursuant to Section 14087.3 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and any advisory committee to a county-sponsored health plan licensed pursuant to Chapter 2.2 (commencing with Section 1340) of Division 2 of the Health and Safety Code if the advisory committee has 12 or more members.
  - (e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.
- SEC. 4. Section 54954.2 of the Government Code is amended to read: 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be

containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the

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regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.

- (2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site, the following provisions shall apply:
- (A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.
- (B) An online posting of an agenda including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:
- (i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.
  - (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.
- (iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.
- (C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:
- (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an Internet Web site with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.

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- (iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.
- (iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).
- (D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:
- (i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an Internet Web site of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.
- (ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.
- (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.
- (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).
- (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to

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the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.

- (4) To consider action on a request from a member to participate in a meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances, pursuant to Section 54953, if the request does not allow sufficient time to place the proposed action on the posted agenda for the meeting for which the request is made. The legislative body may approve such a request by a majority vote of the legislative body.
- (c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.
- (d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:
- (1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2026, and as of that date is repealed.
  - SEC. 5. Section 54954.2 is added to the Government Code, to read:
- 54954.2. (a) (1) At least 72 hours before a regular meeting, the legislative body of the local agency, or its designee, shall post an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted or discussed at the meeting, including items to be discussed in closed session. A brief general description of an item generally need not exceed 20 words. The agenda shall specify the time and location of the regular meeting and shall be posted in a location that is freely accessible to members of the public and on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.
- (2) For a meeting occurring on and after January 1, 2019, of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site, the following provisions shall apply:

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- (A) An online posting of an agenda shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that is accessible through a prominent, direct link to the current agenda. The direct link to the agenda shall not be in a contextual menu; however, a link in addition to the direct link to the agenda may be accessible through a contextual menu.
- (B) An online posting of an agenda including, but not limited to, an agenda posted in an integrated agenda management platform, shall be posted in an open format that meets all of the following requirements:
- (i) Retrievable, downloadable, indexable, and electronically searchable by commonly used Internet search applications.
  - (ii) Platform independent and machine readable.
- (iii) Available to the public free of charge and without any restriction that would impede the reuse or redistribution of the agenda.
- (C) A legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state that has an Internet Web site and an integrated agenda management platform shall not be required to comply with subparagraph (A) if all of the following are met:
- (i) A direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall be posted on the primary Internet Web site homepage of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state. The direct link to the integrated agenda management platform shall not be in a contextual menu. When a person clicks on the direct link to the integrated agenda management platform, the direct link shall take the person directly to an Internet Web site with the agendas of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (ii) The integrated agenda management platform may contain the prior agendas of a legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state for all meetings occurring on or after January 1, 2019.
- (iii) The current agenda of the legislative body of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state shall be the first agenda available at the top of the integrated agenda management platform.
- (iv) All agendas posted in the integrated agenda management platform shall comply with the requirements in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii) of subparagraph (B).
- (D) For the purposes of this paragraph, both of the following definitions shall apply:
- (i) "Integrated agenda management platform" means an Internet Web site of a city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state dedicated to providing the entirety of the agenda information for the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state to the public.

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- (ii) "Legislative body" has the same meaning as that term is used in subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (E) The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to a political subdivision of a local agency that was established by the legislative body of the city, county, city and county, special district, school district, or political subdivision established by the state.
- (3) No action or discussion shall be undertaken on any item not appearing on the posted agenda, except that members of a legislative body or its staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their public testimony rights under Section 54954.3. In addition, on their own initiative or in response to questions posed by the public, a member of a legislative body or its staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. Furthermore, a member of a legislative body, or the body itself, subject to rules or procedures of the legislative body, may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the body at a subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.
- (b) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the legislative body may take action on items of business not appearing on the posted agenda under any of the conditions stated below. Prior to discussing any item pursuant to this subdivision, the legislative body shall publicly identify the item.
- (1) Upon a determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.
- (2) Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the members of the legislative body present at the meeting, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, a unanimous vote of those members present, that there is a need to take immediate action and that the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda being posted as specified in subdivision (a).
- (3) The item was posted pursuant to subdivision (a) for a prior meeting of the legislative body occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is being taken.
- (c) This section is necessary to implement and reasonably within the scope of paragraph (1) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution.
- (d) For purposes of subdivision (a), the requirement that the agenda be posted on the local agency's Internet Web site, if the local agency has one, shall only apply to a legislative body that meets either of the following standards:
- (1) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.
- (2) A legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (b) of Section 54952, if the members of the legislative body are compensated for their appearance, and if one or more of the members of the legislative body are

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also members of a legislative body as that term is defined by subdivision (a) of Section 54952.

(e) This section shall become operative January 1, 2026.

SEC. 6. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, impose a limitation on the public's right of access to the meetings of public bodies or the writings of public officials and agencies within the meaning of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution. Pursuant to that constitutional provision, the Legislature makes the following findings to demonstrate the interest protected by this limitation and the need for protecting that interest:

By removing the requirement for agendas to be placed at the location of each public official participating in a public meeting remotely, including from the member's private home or hospital room, this act protects the personal, private information of public officials and their families while preserving the public's right to access information concerning the conduct of the people's business.

SEC. 7. The Legislature finds and declares that Sections 1 and 2 of this act, which amend Section 54953 of the Government Code, further, within the meaning of paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the purposes of that constitutional section as it relates to the right of public access to the meetings of local public bodies or the writings of local public officials and local agencies. Pursuant to paragraph (7) of subdivision (b) of Section 3 of Article I of the California Constitution, the Legislature makes the following findings:

This act is necessary to ensure minimum standards for public participation and notice requirements allowing for greater public participation in teleconference meetings.

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# San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission

#### COMMISSIONERS

Chairperson ED WAAGE City Member

Vice-Chair
DEBBIE ARNOLD
County Member

LYNN COMPTON
County Member

MARSHALL OCHYLSKI Special District Member

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Special District Member

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City Member

HEATHER JENSEN
Public Member

#### **ALTERNATES**

Dawn Ortiz-Legg County Member

ED EBY
Special District Member

CHARLES BOURBEAU

City Member

David Watson Public Member

# <u>Staff</u>

ROB FITZROY
Executive Officer

IMELDA MARQUEZ Analyst

Morgan Bing Clerk Analyst

BRIAN A. PIERIK Legal Counsel TO: MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

FROM: ROB FITZROY, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**DATE:** OCTOBER 20, 2022

SUBJECT: LAFCO File 1-R-21: Annexation #82 to the City of San Luis Obispo

(Froom Ranch Specific Plan Area) Time Extension Request

# **RECOMMENDATION**

It is respectfully recommended that the Commission consider taking the following actions:

**Action 1:** Approve a one-year time extension for LAFCO File No. 1-R-21 to comply with required Conditions of Approval as established by LAFCO Resolution 2021-05.

# DISCUSSION

#### Overview

On October 21, 2021, the Commission approved the Froom Ranch Specific Plan Annexation to the City of San Luis Obispo (LAFCO File No. 1-R-21). The action included a Conditon of Approval that required the City to offset impacts related to prime soils and enter certain portions of the site into a conservation easement. The City has been working diligently to satisfy the conditon in consultation with LAFCO staff; however, additional time is needed to complete the necessary conservation easements and comply with the Condition of Approval.

# Process

The subject territory will be formally annexed into the City upon filing of the Certificate of Completion (Section 57202). However, per Section 57200, the Certificate of Completion cannot be filed until all Conditions of Approval are satisfied. Per Section 57001, if a Certificate of Completion has not been filed within one year of approval, the proceeding shall be deemed terminated unless prior to the expiration of that year the Commission authorizes an extension of time for completion (expiration date is October 21, 2022). The Commission can extend for any reasonable period of time. Staff is recommending a one-year time extension.

Attachment A:	Request for	Time Extension	from City	y of San	Luis Obispo
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# **Attachment A**

Request for Time Extension from City of San Luis Obispo

C-1-3

September 23, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Rob Fitzroy, Executive Officer San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission 1042 Pacific Street, Suite A San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

RE: Request for Extension – Annexation No. 82

Dear Mr. Fitzroy:

Please accept this letter as the City of San Luis Obispo's formal request to extend the term for completion of the conditions of approval for Annexation No. 82 to the City of San Luis Obispo (Froom Ranch Specific Plan). Specifically, condition 4.2 requires that, prior to filing the Certificate of Completion with the State Board of Equalization, the project proponent shall submit to LAFCO documentation of a recorded perpetual conservation easement meeting the intent of LAFCO's 1:1 preservation policy.

As you are aware, the City and project owners have been working diligently to complete the required easement in coordination with your office. At the present time it appears that the parties are largely in agreement as to the terms of the easement, although work remains to ensure that the legal descriptions and maps for the easement area prepared by a land surveyor are consistent with the area proposed to LAFCO that served as the basis of LAFCO's approval of Resolution No. 2021-05.

In consideration of the foregoing, we respectfully respect the accommodation of an extension of the term for completion of this condition of approval for Annexation No. 82. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of our request.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Hill

Sustainability & Natural Resources Official

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Cc: Michael Codron, City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Director