

RESOLUTION NO. 22R-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY RE-RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR NEWSOM, DECLARING THAT LOCAL EMERGENCY CONDITIONS PERSIST, AND RE-AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS' STANDING COMMITTEES FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 20, 2022, TO SEPTEMBER 18, 2022, PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS

WHEREAS, the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency (the "Agency") is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of its Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Agency's Board of Directors (the "Board") and its standing committees are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (California Government Code Sections 54950-54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch those bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, in Government Code Section 54953(e), makes provision 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, a required condition for application of Government Code Section 54953(e) is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code Section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the State caused by conditions as described in Government Code Section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the Agency's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, Governor Gavin Newsom proclaimed a state of emergency to exist in California as a result of the threat of COVID-19, and such proclamation has not yet been lifted; and

WHEREAS, it is further required under Government Code Section 54953(e) that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing or that the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously adopted Resolution No. 22R-07 on June 21, 2022, finding that the requisite conditions exist for the Board and its standing committees to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with Government Code Section 54953(b)(3); and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the provisions set forth in Government Code Section 54953(e), the Board must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists within the Agency, and the Board has done so; and

WHEREAS, emergency conditions persist within the Agency, specifically COVID-19 and its Delta variant, remain highly contagious and, therefore, a threat to the health, safety, and well-being of the Agency's employees, directors, vendors, contractors, customers, visitors, and residents; and

WHEREAS, directions from the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health and regulations from the State of California impose various social distancing restrictions and provide guidance on best practices with respect to actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Board does hereby find that a state of emergency continues to exist within the Agency's service area as a result of the continuing presence of COVID-19, which has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of imminent risk to attendees of Board meetings, and has resulted in local, State, and federal social distancing orders and related guidance, and which has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the Agency that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the Agency, and the Board desires to re-affirm that a local emergency exists and re-ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency persisting, the Board does hereby find that the Board and all standing committees thereof shall continue to conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall continue to comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of Government Code Section 54953; and

WHEREAS, the Agency will continue to provide proper notice to the public regarding all Board and standing committee meetings in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(2) and shall continue to provide notice to the public of how they may access any such meeting via call-in number and/or internet link.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIGHORN-DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

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Section 2. Affirmation that Local Emergency Persists. The Board hereby considers the conditions of the state of emergency within the Agency and proclaims that a local emergency persists throughout the Agency as a result of the continuing presence of COVID-19, which continues to cause conditions of imminent risk to attendees of the Agency's Board and standing committee meetings, and which have resulted in local, State, and federal social distancing orders and guidance, and that continuing to conduct the Agency's Board and standing committee meetings virtually will minimize the possible spread COVID-19 and any variant thereof.

Section 3. Re-Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Board hereby re-ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency regarding COVID-19, dated March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The Agency's General Manager, or his or her delegee, and the Board and standing committees of the Agency are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution, including but not limited to continuing to conduct open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) the expiration of thirty (30) days from the date this Resolution was adopted, as set forth below, or (ii) such time as the Board adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code Section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Board and standing committees of the Agency may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency this 9th day of August, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:
ABSTAIN:


President of the Board

ATTEST:


Megan Close-Dees, Secretary



Official Seal