

RESOLUTION OF THE MENDOCINO COUNTY FISH AND GAME COMMISSION FINDING THAT STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC MEETINGS

WHEREAS, all meetings of the **Fish and Game Commission** and its legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code §§ 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and view the legislative bodies conduct their business; 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 issued a Proclamation of a State of Emergency declaring a state of emergency exists due to the outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as COVID-19), pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8625) and that State of Emergency is still in effect in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, neither the Governor nor the state Legislature have exercised their respective powers pursuant to Government Code section 8629 to lift the state of emergency either by proclamation or by concurrent resolution the state Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Industrial Relations has issued regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention for employees and places of employment. Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D) specifically recommends physical (social) distancing as one of the measures to decrease the spread of COVID-19 based on the fact that particles containing the virus can travel more than six feet, especially indoors; and

WHEREAS, the Mendocino County Public Health Officer continues to recommend teleconferencing during public meetings of all legislative bodies to protect the community's health against the spread of COVID-19, based in part on the continued increased safety protection that physical/social distancing provides as one means by which to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission; and

WHEREAS, the **Fish and Game Commission** finds that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing based on the Mendocino County Public Health Officer recommendation and the California Department of Industrial Relations' issuance of regulations related to COVID-19 Prevention through Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3205(c)(5)(D); and

WHEREAS, as a consequence, the **Fish and Game Commission** does hereby find that current conditions meet the circumstances set for in Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow this legislative body to conduct its meetings by teleconferencing without compliance with Government Code section 54953 (b)(3), pursuant to Section 54953(e), and that such legislative body shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed by Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure the public can safely participate in and observe local government meetings.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Fish and Game Commission, as follows:

SECTION 1. RECITALS.

All of the above recitals are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

SECTION 2. STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO PROMOTE SOCIAL DISTANCING IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Fish and Game Commission finds that State or local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing pursuant to Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to allow legislative bodies to use teleconferencing to hold public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) to ensure members of the public have continued access to safely observe and participate in local government meetings.

SECTION 3. REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS.

Fish and Game Commission is hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(2) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

The foregoing Resolution introduced by _____, seconded by _____, and carried this 14th of February 2023, by the **Fish and Game Commission**, by the following vote:

AYES:

NO:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared said Resolution adopted and SO ORDERED.