



# LOS ANGELES COUNTY **REDISTRICTING 2021**

## COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Honorable Commissioners

**FROM:** Holly O. Whatley, Independent Legal Counsel

**DATE:** September 22, 2021

**SUBJECT: Resolution Authorizing Hybrid or Fully Teleconferenced Meetings of the Commission For a 30-Day Period**

### **SUMMARY**

The Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (LA CRC) will consider authorizing the use of hybrid and fully teleconferenced meetings for a 30-day period consistent with AB 361.

### **DISCUSSION**

Following the Governor's declaration of a state of emergency on March 4, 2020 (attached) due to COVID-19, legislative bodies, including LA CRC, were able to conduct fully remote Commission meetings. This was authorized by Executive Orders N-25-20, N-29-20, and N-35-20, which collectively modified certain requirements of the Ralph M. Brown Act (Brown Act), the state's local agency public meeting law. On June 11, 2021, the Governor issued Executive Order N-08-21 which, effective September 30, 2021, rescinds the prior executive orders modifying the Brown Act.

To accommodate the desire on the part of local governments to maintain teleconferenced meetings as may be necessary to protect public health and safety during the pandemic, the Legislature approved Assembly Bill No. 361 (AB 361) which authorizes local governments to continue to organize fully remote and hybrid meetings. AB 361 is an urgency ordinance and took effect upon the Governor's signature on September 16, 2021. Unlike the Governor's executive orders, AB 361 requires the LA CRC to make affirmative findings to take advantage of the more flexible teleconferencing standards.





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AB 361 added Government Code section 54953, subdivision (e)(3), which states:

“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 ... the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time ... 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.”

The attached resolution contains the necessary findings authorizing LA CRC to use hybrid or fully teleconferenced meetings of the Commission for the next 30 days. Such findings are based on the original declaration of emergency, the June 11, 2021 State Public Health Officer order and the September 17, 2021, Los Angeles County Health Officer order, all of which are attached. The two health orders continue to recommend social distancing measures for the protection of public health and safety.

LA CRC will need to adopt a version of this resolution every 30 days if it desires to maintain fully remote or hybrid meetings.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

**Exh. A:** March 4, 2020 Declaration of Emergency

**Exh. B:** June 11, 2021 State Public Health Officer Order

**Exh. C:** September 17, 2021 Los Angeles County Health Officer Order

**Exh. D:** Draft Resolution

